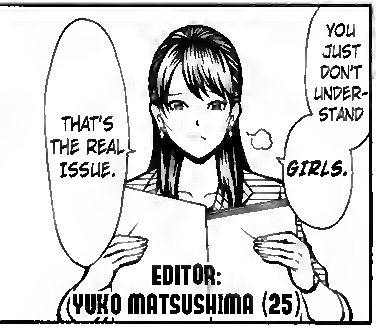
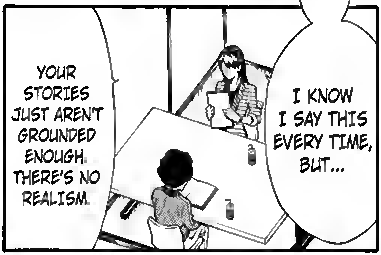
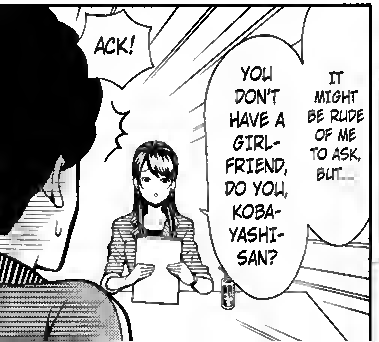
BAM
SHOTA KOBAYASHI (30)


YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS.
THAT'S THE REAL ISSUE.
EDITOR: YUKO MATSUSHIMA (25)

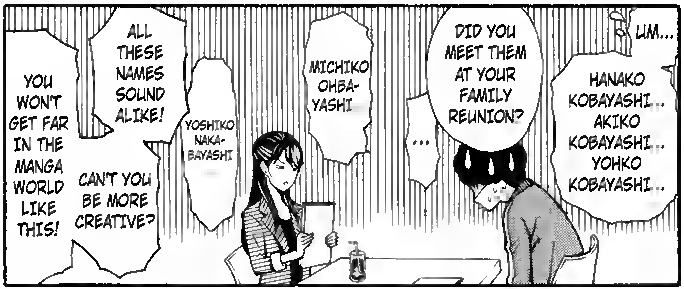
WELL...


I KNOW I SAY THIS EVERY TIME, BUT...
YOUR STORIES JUST AREN'T GROUNDED ENOUGH. THERE'S NO REALISM.


ACK!
YOU DON'T HAVE A GIRL-FRIEND, DO YOU, KOBA-YASHI-SAN?
IT MIGHT BE RUDE OF ME TO ASK, BUT...

LIFE GOAL:
BA-
...
BECOME A SHOJO MANGA ARTIST
BAM!

HAS NEVER HAD A GIRL-FRIEND
BA-
BA-
OF- OF COURSE I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND! I HAVE- I HAVE SEVENTEEN GIRLFRIENDS!!
BAM
1ST NIGHT: SHOTA KOBAYASHI (30)


YOU WON'T GET FAR IN THE MANGA WORLD LIKE THIS!
ALL THESE NAMES SOUND ALIKE!
CAN'T YOU BE MORE CREATIVE?
YOSHIKO NAKA-BAYASHI
MICHIKO OHBA-YASHI
...
DID YOU MEET THEM AT YOUR FAMILY REUNION?
UM...
HANAKO KOBAYASHI... AKIKO KOBAYASHI... YOHKO KOBAYASHI...

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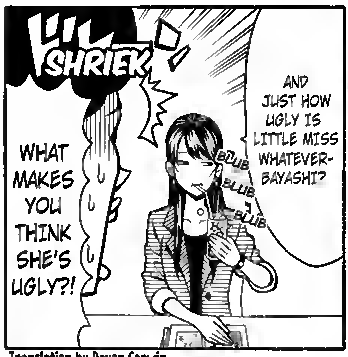

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Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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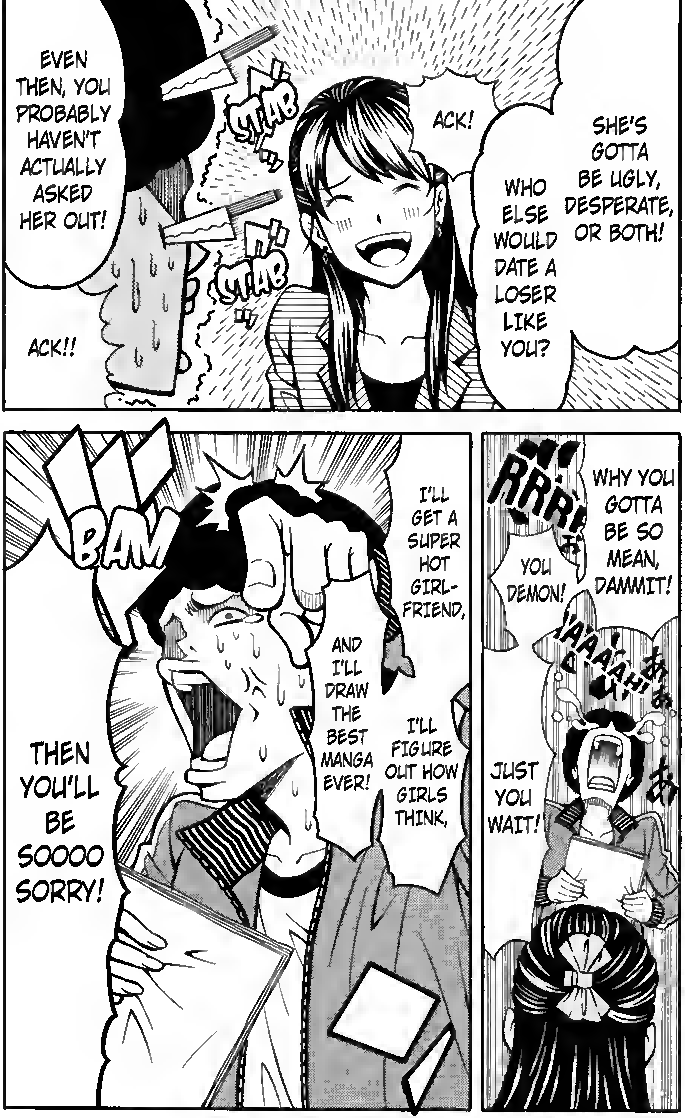
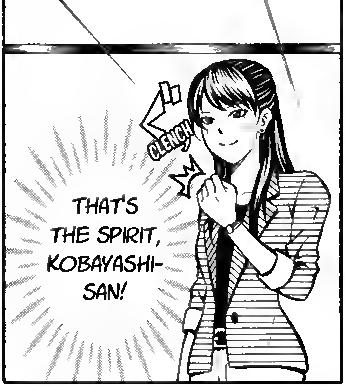
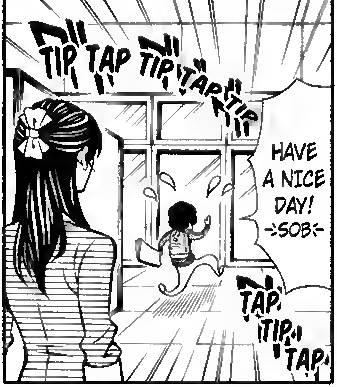
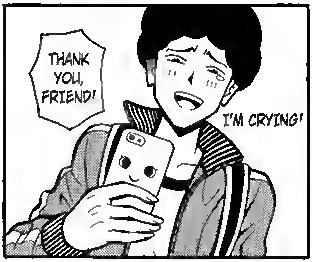
story and art by
Satoshi Kinoshita


SHE'S GOTTA BE UGLY, DESPERATE, OR BOTH!
WHO ELSE WOULD DATE A LOSER LIKE YOU?
ACK!
STAB
STAB
EVEN THEN, YOU PROBABLY HAVEN'T ACTUALLY ASKED HER OUT!
ACK!!
WHY YOU GOTTA BE SO MEAN, DAMMIT!
RRR!
YOU DEMON!
AAAAH!
JUST YOU WAIT!
I'LL GET A SUPER HOT GIRL-FRIEND,
AND I'LL DRAW THE BEST MANGA EVER!
I'LL FIGURE OUT HOW GIRLS THINK,
BAM
THEN YOU'LL BE SOOOO SORRY!


CLICK!
THAT'S THE SPIRIT, KOBAYASHI-SAN!

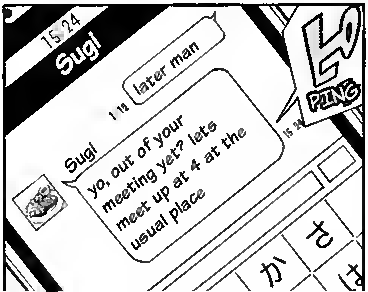

TIP TAP TIP TAP TIP
HAVE A NICE DAY! -:SOB:-
TAP TIP TAP

DAMN IT!


THANK YOU, FRIEND!
I'M CRYING!

THAT MEAN EDITOR ...
JUST YOU WAIT! I'LL SELL MILLIONS! THEN YOU'LL BEG!
PRING!
HM?

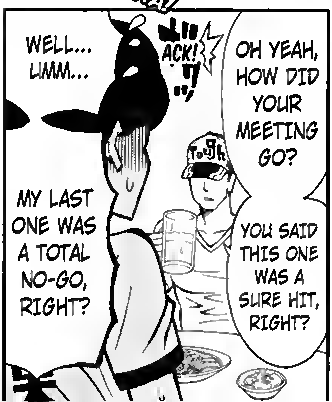
24時間営業
HERE'S TO LIFE!

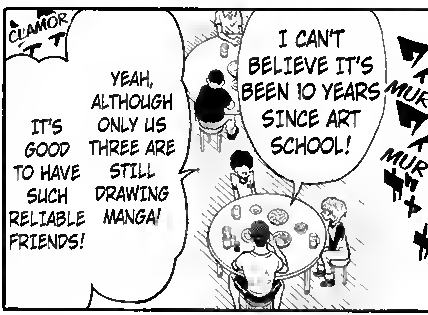

15:24
Sugi
1 in later man
Sugi
yo, out of your meeting yet? lets meet up at 4 at the usual place
15:24
PRING!

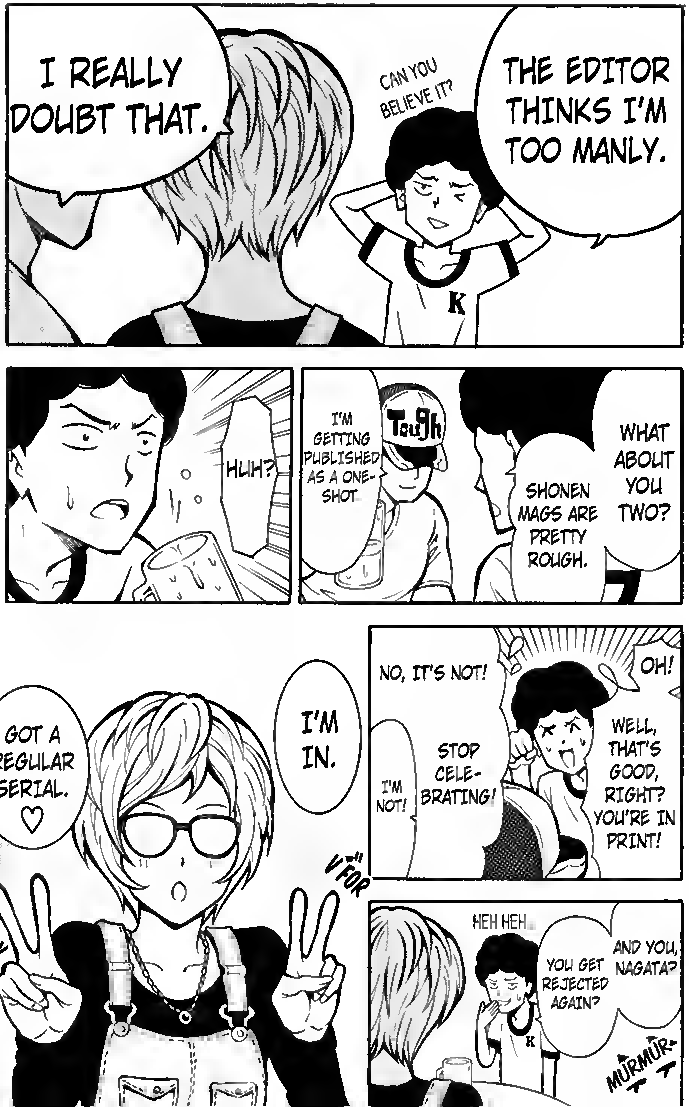
CLAMOR
IT'S JUST WATER.
MUR
MUR
YEAH! CHUG IT, KOBA!
Tough
GLUG
GLUG
GLUG
CLAMOR
MIGATA (30)
SUGIMOTO (31)

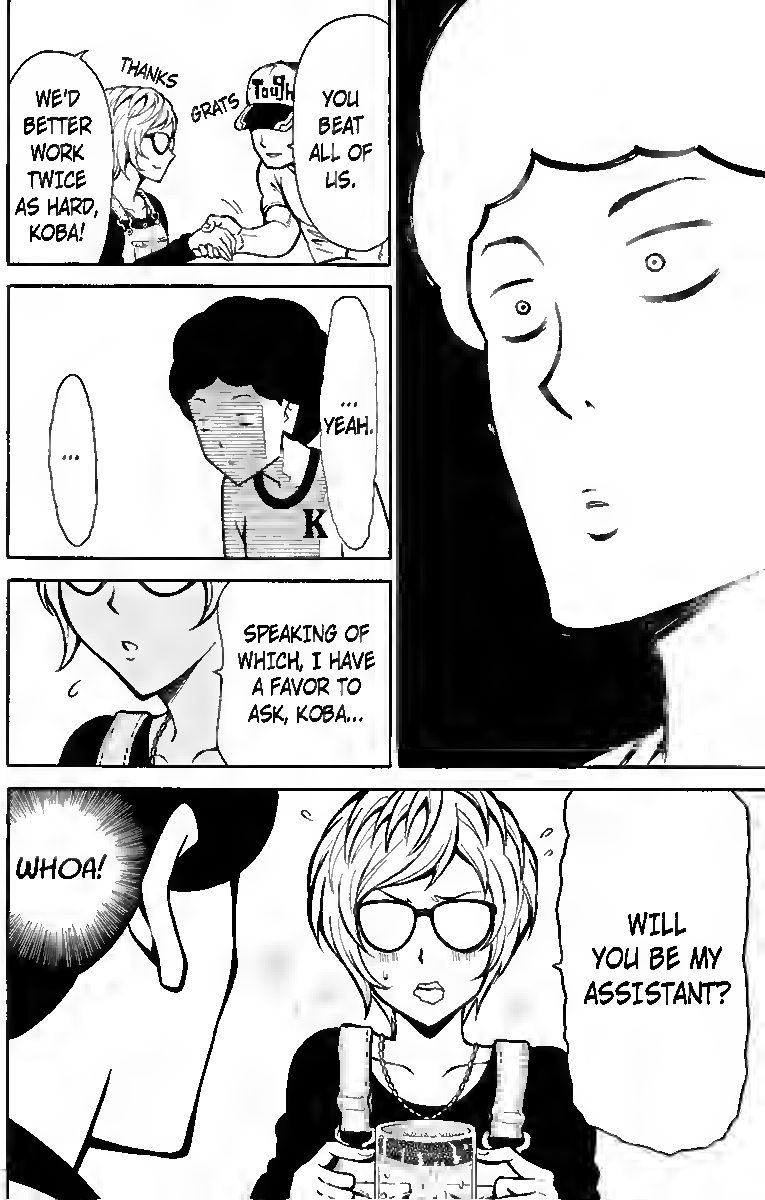
CAN'T YOU BE NICE TO ME, AT LEAST FOR TODAY?
MINERAL WATER WOULD BE WASTED ON YOU.
HAHAHA!

NOT REALLY. IT'S TAP WATER
AHH!-
IT'S EVIAN NATURAL MINERAL WATER!
K


WELL... UMM...
ACK!
OH YEAH, HOW DID YOUR MEETING GO?
Tough
MY LAST ONE WAS A TOTAL NO-GO, RIGHT?
YOU SAID THIS ONE WAS A SURE HIT, RIGHT?

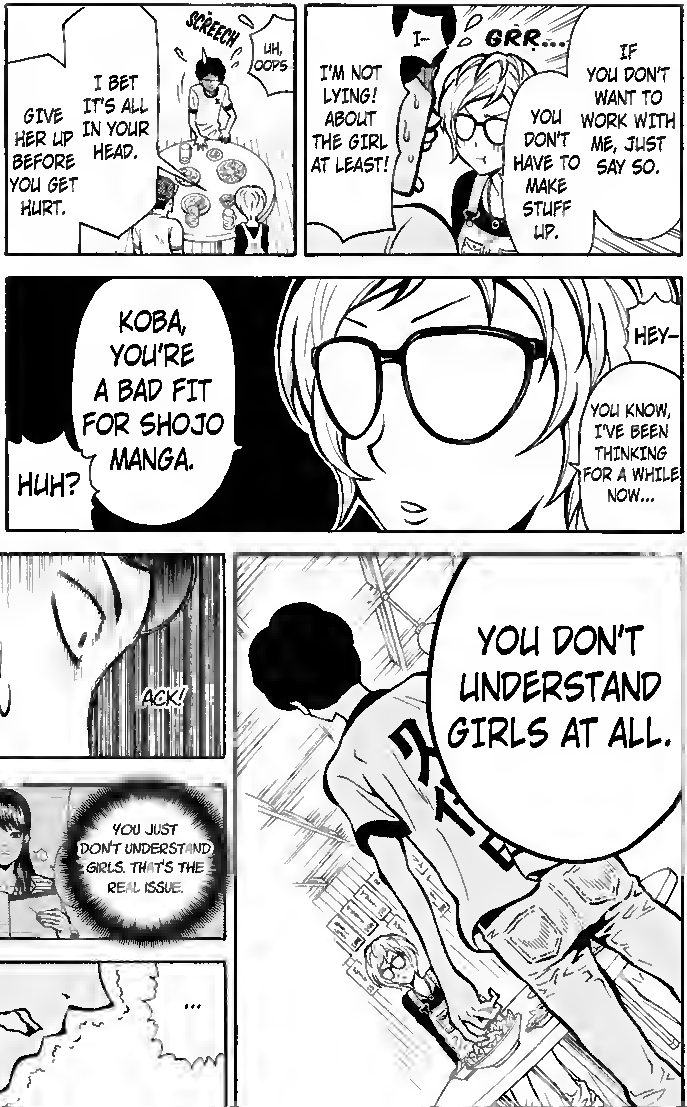

CLAMOR
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE SUCH RELIABLE FRIENDS!
YEAH, ALTHOUGH ONLY US THREE ARE STILL DRAWING MANGA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S BEEN 10 YEARS SINCE ART SCHOOL!
MUR
MUR


I REALLY DOUBT THAT.
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?
THE EDITOR THINKS I'M TOO MANLY.
HUH?
I'M GETTING PUBLISHED AS A ONE-SHOT
Tough
SHONEN MAGS ARE PRETTY ROUGH.
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?
I'M IN.
GOT A REGULAR SERIAL. ♡
V FOR VICTORY
NO, IT'S NOT!
I'M NOT!
STOP CELE-BRATING!
OH!
WELL, THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT? YOU'RE IN PRINT!
HEH HEH...
YOU GET REJECTED AGAIN?
AND YOU, NAGATA?
MURMUR-


YOU BEAT ALL OF US.
GRATS
THANKS
WE'D BETTER WORK TWICE AS HARD, KOBA!
...YEAH.
...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK, KOBA...
WILL YOU BE MY ASSISTANT?
WHOA!

I MEAN...
ALL THE ASSISTANTS MY EDITOR RECOMMENDED WERE GUYS,
AND IF I WAS GOING TO WORK WITH A GUY, I'D RATHER IT BE YOU.
YOU'RE SO LAID BACK, YOUR ART IS SO CLEAN, AND...
K
WHEN I GET A SERIAL, I'LL TOTALLY HIRE YOU GUYS!
WHY NOT, KOBA?
GRIN
TSU
YOU LIVE WITH YOUR PARENTS AND DON'T HAVE A JOB, SO YOU'VE GOT TIME, RIGHT?
...
NOPE! NO CAN DO!
MY– MY MANGA GOT PICKED UP, TOO!
REALLY ?!
YEAH! THEY'RE... WAITING TO SERIALIZE IT?
HAHAHA!
YOU CAN STILL HELP ONE OR TWO DAYS A WEEK, RIGHT?
WELL
THE THING IS...

CLAP
CLAP
CLAMOR
I'M GETTING A GIRLFRIEND.
YOU MEAN YOU GOT A GIRL-FRIEND?
GET-TING?
AND WE'RE GOING TO MEET UP LATER TODAY!
THERE'S A GIRL WHO'S BEEN WAITING FOR ME TO ASK HER OUT!
NO, I'M SERIOUS!
OR ARE YOU GOING TO THE GIRLFRIEND STORE?
CRAP!
LURK!
YOU'RE LYING.
ABOUT BOTH.
...
MUR-MUR
CLAMOR
ONCE WE'RE GOING OUT,
I'LL BE REALLY SUPER BUSY!

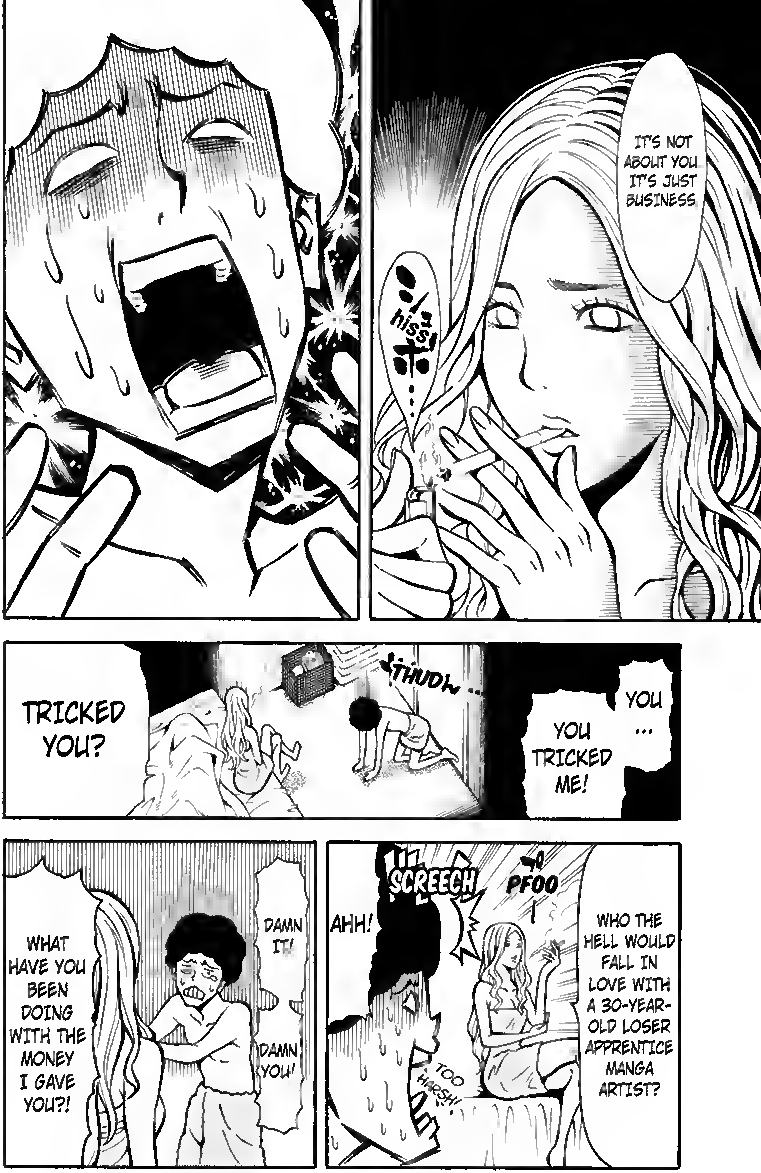

SCREECH
UH, OOPS
I BET IT'S ALL IN YOUR HEAD.
GIVE HER UP BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
I-
GRR...
I'M NOT LYING! ABOUT THE GIRL AT LEAST!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE STUFF UP.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK WITH ME, JUST SAY SO.
KOBA, YOU'RE A BAD FIT FOR SHOJO MANGA.
HUH?
HEY-
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING FOR A WHILE NOW...
ACK!
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS. THAT'S THE REAL ISSUE.
...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS AT ALL.

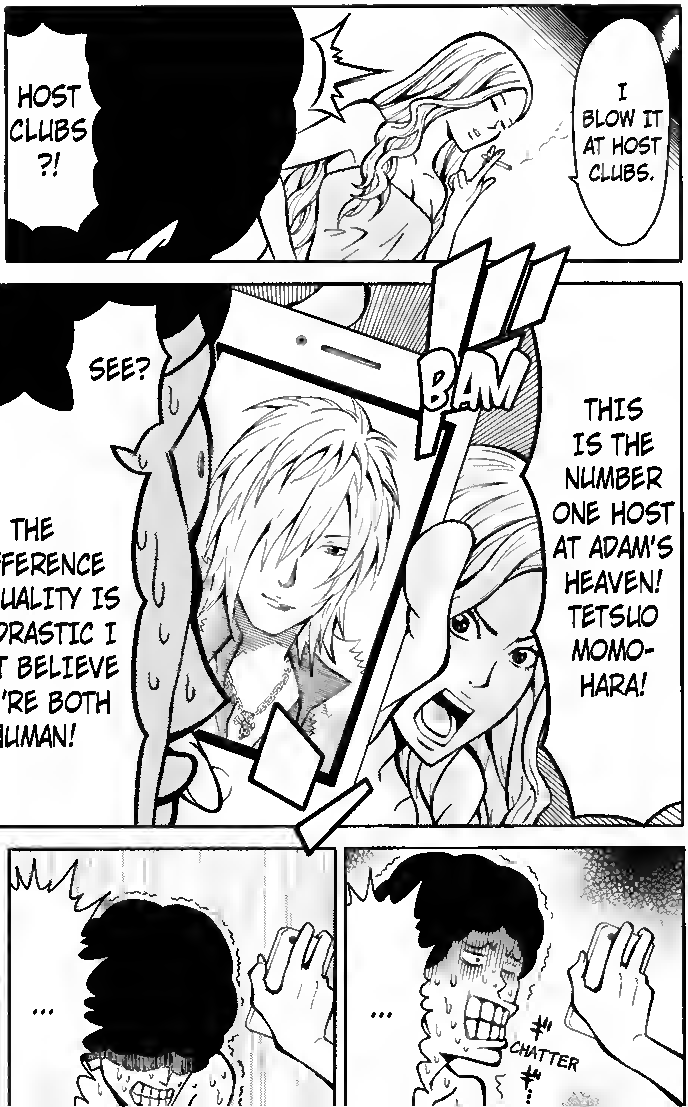
WHAT'S AN UGLY HAG LIKE YOU KNOW ABOUT GIRLS, ANYWAY?
RIP!
SHUT UP, YOU UGLY HAG!
AND EVEN UGLY GIRLS ARE GIRLS, YOU KNOW!
OW-
POW!
CRASH!
AH-
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, UGLY?!
UH...
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND AN UGLY GIRL'S FEELINGS,
BAM!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO DRAW SHOJO MANGA?!
SHIT. I MEANT-
WAIT.
OOF!
THUMP!

THUNK
HEY! YOU TWO, THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!
THAT'S LOW
HERE'S ¥2000 FOR THE WATER. KEEP THE CHANGE.
I GOTTA GO.
MY FUTURE GIRLFRIEND IS WAITING FOR ME.
ロマンス通り
LOVERS' LANE
CREAK
SLAM

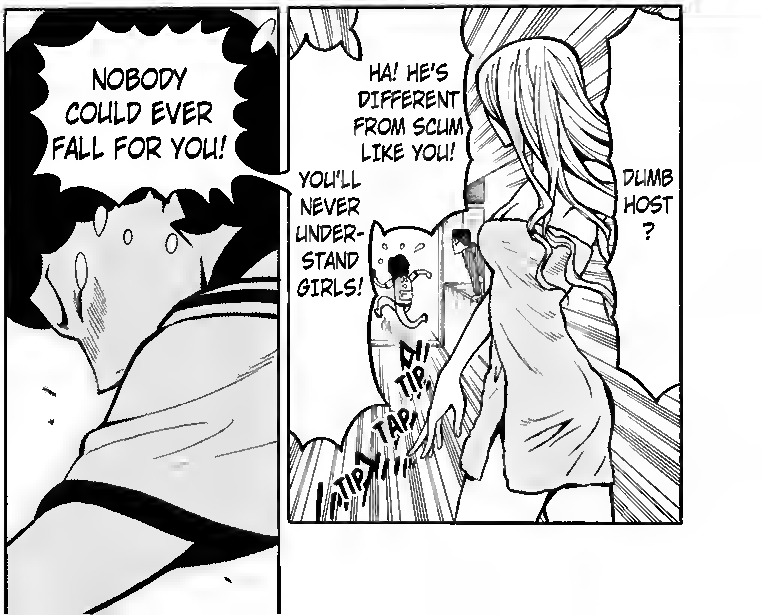
WOW
THAT SOUNDS ROUGH.
BUT CHEER UP, KOBAYASHI-SAN!
I'M HERE FOR YOU!
THANKS.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME, AINA.
HEY ...
LET'S STOP DOING THIS.
CAN'T WE JUST BE A NORMAL COUPLE?
...!
KOBA-YASHI-SAN
I'M SORRY I TOOK SO LONG TO ASK, BABY.
WHAT ARE YOU ON?

YOU'RE JUST A CLIENT OF MINE.
BAM
WHAT?!
BUT... WHAT ABOUT
I'M SO HAPPY YOU CAME TO SEE ME!
I LOVE YOU! ♡
AND
OH, KOBAYASHI-SAN_ WON'T YOU HOLD ME?
AND STUFF!
WE HAVE SO MANY MEMORIES TOGETHER!
...

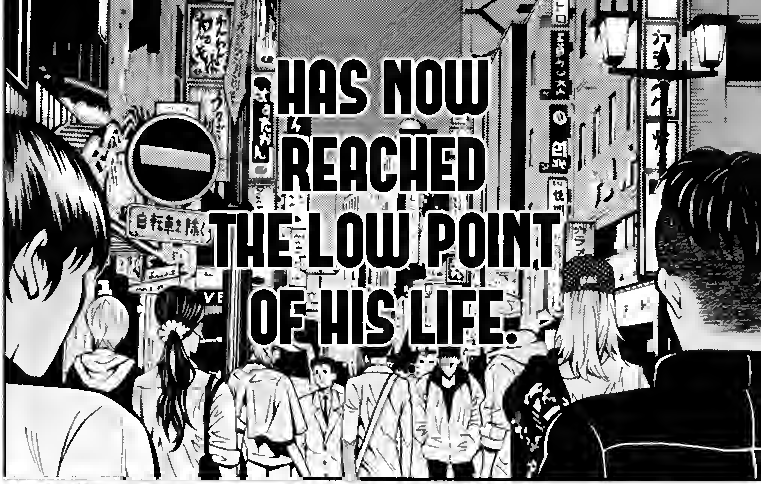

IT'S NOT ABOUT YOU IT'S JUST BUSINESS
hiss
YOU ...
YOU TRICKED ME!
THUDW...
TRICKED YOU?
WHO THE HELL WOULD FALL IN LOVE WITH A 30-YEAR-OLD LOSER APPRENTICE MANGA ARTIST?
PFOO
SCREECH
AHH!
TOO MUCH!
DAMN IT!
DAMN YOU!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING WITH THE MONEY I GAVE YOU?!


I BLOW IT AT HOST CLUBS.
HOST CLUBS ?!
BAM
THIS IS THE NUMBER ONE HOST AT ADAM'S HEAVEN! TETSUO MOMO-HARA!
SEE?
THE DIFFERENCE IN QUALITY IS SO DRASTIC I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE BOTH HUMAN!
...
...
CHATTER

I CAN'T BELIEVE A GIRL DUMPED ME FOR A DUMB HOST!
DASH!!
DAMN IT ALL!
SHOVE


NOBODY COULD EVER FALL FOR YOU!
HA! HE'S DIFFERENT FROM SCUM LIKE YOU!
YOU'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND GIRLS!
DUMB HOST ?
TIP
TAP
TIP

ロマンス通り
LOVERS' LANE
GoRO
SHOTA KOBAYASHI (30)


HAS NOW
REACHED
THE LOW POINT
OF HIS LIFE.

BAM
HUH?
新人ホスト
大・大・募集中!
年齢不問! 初心者歓迎!

SCREW GIRLS!
SCREW HOST CLUBS!
HAH
DAMN IT
HAH

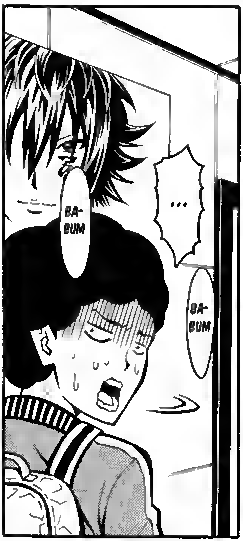
HAH...
HAH...

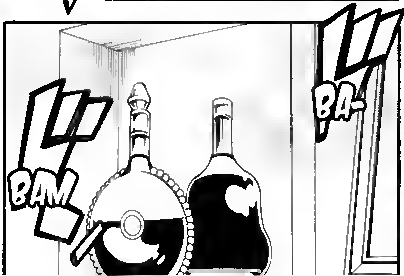
HOT NEW
HOSTS WANTED!
ANY AGE / BACKGROUND
EXPERIENCE LEVEL ACCEPTE
INTERESTED? APPLY INSIDE

BA-
BA-
BA-
TO BECOME A SHOJO MANGA ARTIST...
CREAK
YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS! THAT'S THE REAL ISSUE.
HAH
LI BA-DUM
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDER-STAND AN UGLY GIRL'S FEELINGS, HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO DRAW SHOJO MANGA?
HAH
NOBODY COULD EVER FALL FOR YOU!
LI BA-DUM
BLAM
HE WILL BECOME A HOST!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 2NO NIGHT: THE HOST CLUB LOSER!

story and art by

Satoshi Kinoshita





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Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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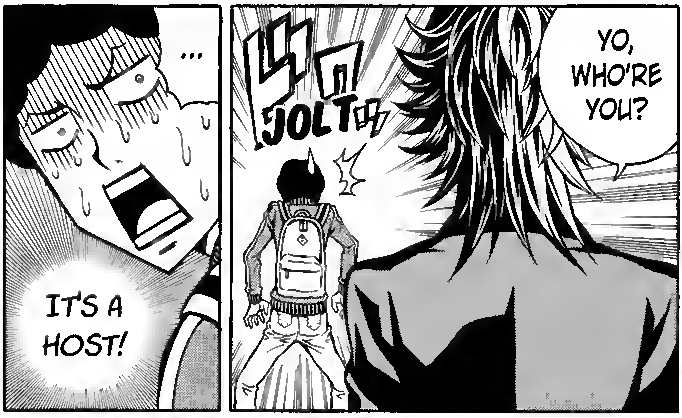
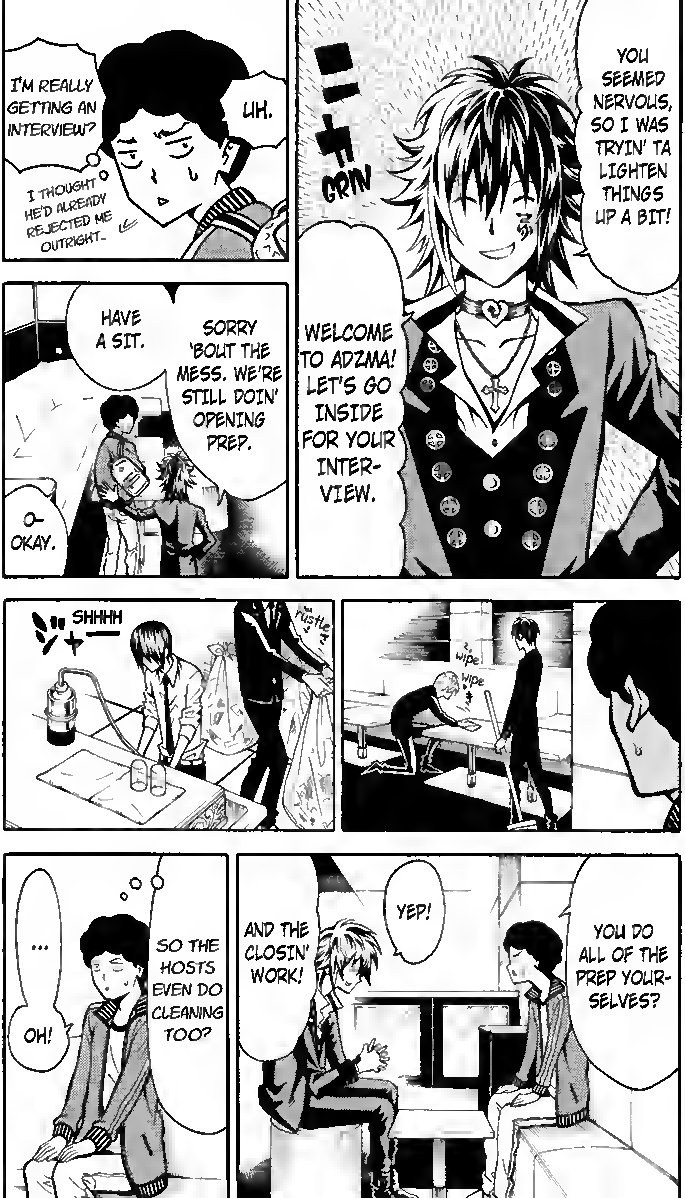
チーン
DING
ぶるる
TREMBLE
I THINK I'LL JUST GO HOME...
2ND NIGHT:
THE HOST CLUB LOSER


...
IT'S A HOST!
ドンッ!
JOLT
YO, WHO'RE YOU?

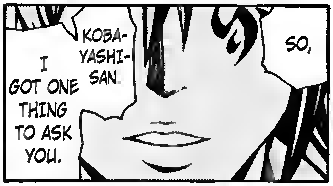
SORRY, WE AIN'T OPEN YET.
AH!
BA-DUM
IT'S THE GUY FROM THE POSTER!
BA-DUM
I... UH...
I SAW THE "HOSTS WANTED" SIGN, AND...
PANIC
UM...
WHA?
YOU APPLYIN' TA BE A HOST?
...

SO DIRECT!
ACK
YER PRETTY UGLY THO?
FWIT
I'LL BE GOING NOW! -SOB-
SORRY TO WASTE YOUR TIME!
WHAT THE HELL! IS THIS WHAT HOSTS ARE LIKE?
VWEEE
IT'S MY NATURAL HAIR!
WANT ME TO VACUUM IT UP?
HEY, YOU GOT A HAIRBALL OR SOMETHIN' ON YA.
SLAP
UH?
AW, I'M JUST PLAYIN'!


I'M REALLY GETTING AN INTERVIEW?
UH.
I THOUGHT HE'D ALREADY REJECTED ME OUTRIGHT...
YOU SEEMED NERVOUS, SO I WAS TRYIN' TA LIGHTEN THINGS UP A BIT!
GRIN
WELCOME TO ADZMA! LET'S GO INSIDE FOR YOUR INTER-VIEW.
HAVE A SIT.
SORRY 'BOUT THE MESS. WE'RE STILL DOIN' OPENING PREP.
O-OKAY.
SHHHH
WIPE
WIPE
YOU DO ALL OF THE PREP YOUR-SELVES?
YEP!
AND THE CLOSIN' WORK!
SO THE HOSTS EVEN DO CLEANING TOO?
...
OH!

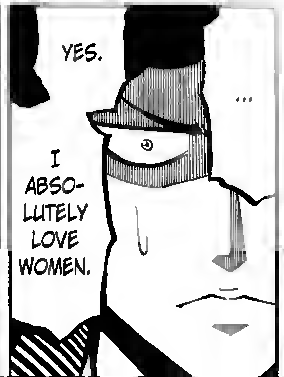
疑惑の眼差し
UH?
THERE'S SUCH A THING AS BEING TOO LAID BACK.
YOU DON'T?
EH, WHATEVER! I NEVER READ 'EM ANYWAY.
S-- SORRY! I DIDN'T BRING A COPY OF MY RESUME!
YA GET ME,
RATHER THAN READ A BUNCHA HALF-TRUTHS,
I WANNA GET A FEEL FOR YOU IN A CASUAL CONVER-SATION.
I'M JUST PLAYIN'! ♪
YOU'RE GREAT FUN TO PLAY OFF OF, KOBA-YASHI-SAN!
CALL ME BY MY NAME!
I'M SHOTA KOBA-YASHI!
OUCH!
WE JUST MET! CAN'T YOU HOLD OFF ON THE BAD NICK-NAMES?
SCUM-HEAD?

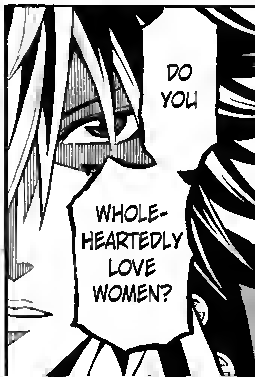
IT'S WRITTEN IN JAPANESE BUT YOU SAY IT LIKE IN ENGLISH!
魂
Soul
SINCE WE'RE DOIN' INTRO-DUCTIONS, I'M ONE OF THE ASSISTANT MANAGERS*, SOUL!
BA-
DAM
WHAT DO YOU THINK? COOL NAME, HUH?


SO,
KOBA-YASHI-SAN.
I GOT ONE THING TO ASK YOU.

Y... YEAH
IS IT REALLY THAT COOL?
I THOUGHT IT UP MYSELF!
big smile
*top earners are also given management duties

ゴゴゴゴ
TENSION


YES.
...
I ABSO-LUTELY LOVE WOMEN.


DO YOU
WHOLE-HEARTEDLY LOVE WOMEN?

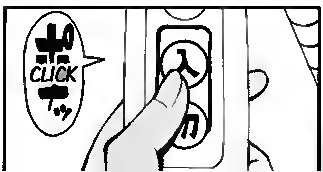
SHRIEK
WHAAAT?
BAM
OK, YOU'RE IN! ♡
SHOCK
THAT'S JUST TOO HARSH!
EVEN IF YOU'RE TOTALLY A HIDEOUS LOSER OR A PIECE OF TRASH, WE'LL FIND SOMETHING FOR YOU TO DO. ♬
WELL, WE'RE REALLY SHORT-STAFFED.
THAT'S IT?
EVEN THOUGH I'M UGLY AND CAN'T HOLD MY ALCOHOL?
...
CLINK
REALLY, THE POINT OF THIS INTERVIEW IS FOR YOU TO GET TO KNOW US.
IF YOU LIKE WHAT YA SEE, I GOT NO PROBLEMS WITH YOU COMIN' ON BOARD!

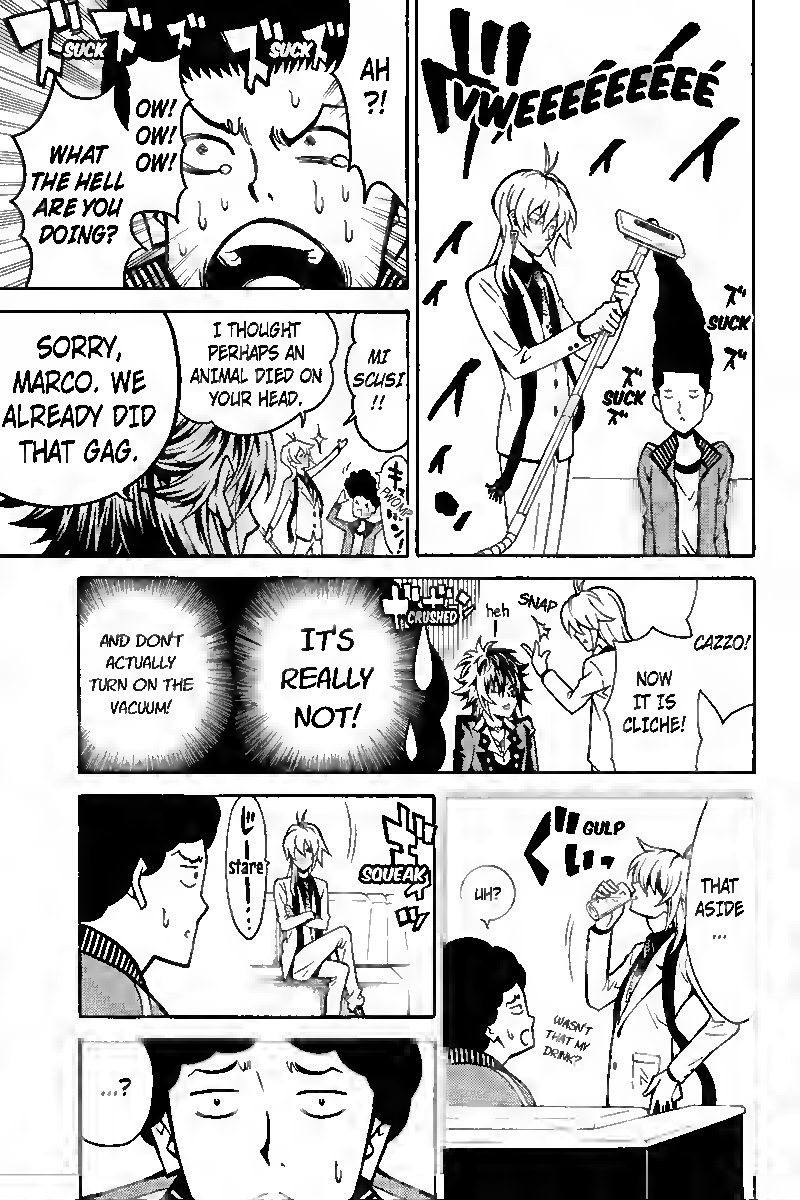
NEVER FORGET THE DUTY OF HOSPITALITY, NO MATTER THE SITUATION.
SPAR
YOU DIDN'T OFFER A GUEST REFRESHMENTS?
HOW RUDE OF YOU, SOUL.
KIE

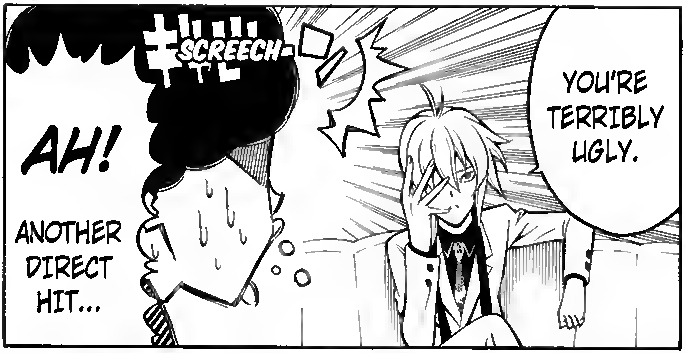
NICE TO MEET YOU TOO.
UM, HELLO

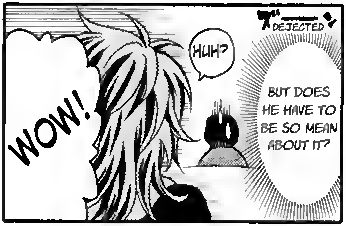
HE'S SO ELEGANT!
A FOREIGN GUY?

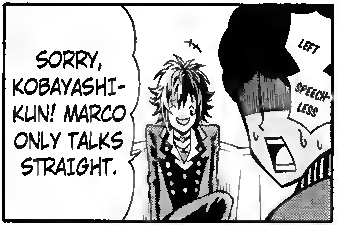
I AM ASSISTANT MANAGER MARCO.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, SIGNOR KOBAYASHI
BENVUENUTI ADZMA!

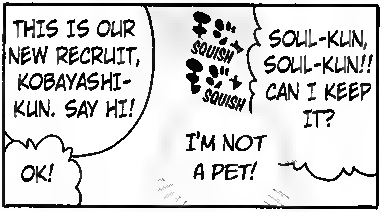

CLICK


SUCK
SUCK
AH ?!
OW! OW! OW!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
WEEEEEEEEEE
SUCK
SUCK
SORRY, MARCO. WE ALREADY DID THAT GAG.
I THOUGHT PERHAPS AN ANIMAL DIED ON YOUR HEAD.
MI SCUSI !!
AND DON'T ACTUALLY TURN ON THE VACUUM!
IT'S REALLY NOT!
CRUSHED
heh
SNAP
CAZZO!
NOW IT IS CLICHE!
stare
SQUEAK
...?
GULP
UH?
THAT ASIDE ...
WASN'T THAT MY DRINK?

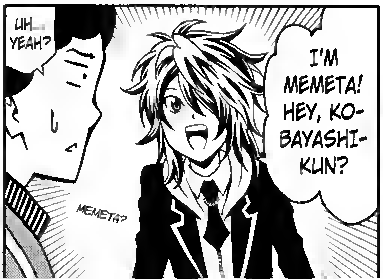

SCREECH-
AH!
ANOTHER DIRECT HIT...
YOU'RE TERRIBLY UGLY.


WOW!
HUH?
DEJECTED
BUT DOES HE HAVE TO BE SO MEAN ABOUT IT?

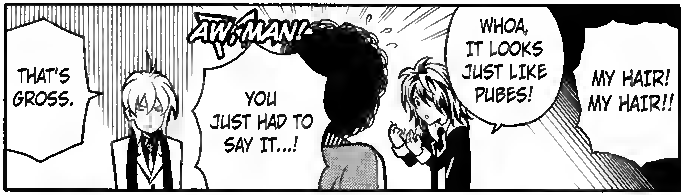

SORRY, KOBAYASHI-KUN! MARCO ONLY TALKS STRAIGHT.
LET
SPEECH-LESS


THIS IS OUR NEW RECRUIT, KOBAYASHI-KUN. SAY HI!
OK!
SQUISH
SQUISH
SOUL-KUN, SOUL-KUN!! CAN I KEEP IT?
I'M NOT A PET!

IT'S SO SOFT AND FURRY!
SQUISH
SQUISH
HUH?!

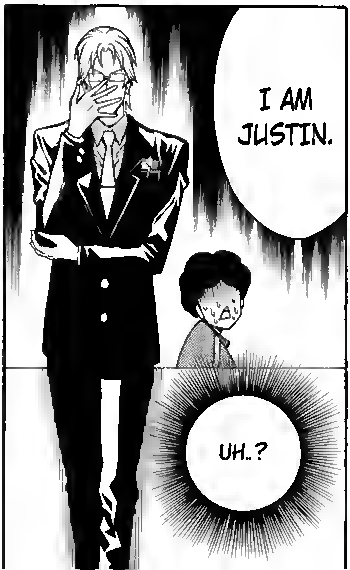

UH... YEAH?
I'M MEMETA! HEY, KO-BAYASHI-KUN?
MEMETA?

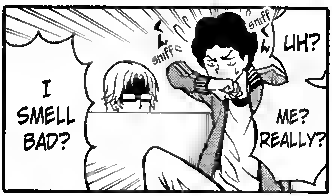
GYAAAAAAAAAAH!
YOUR HAIR GOT STUCK ON ME.
SQU
ICK


AW, MAN!
THAT'S GROSS.
YOU JUST HAD TO SAY IT...!
WHOA, IT LOOKS JUST LIKE PUBES!
MY HAIR! MY HAIR!!

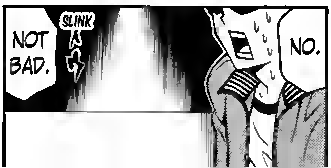
SUDDENLY
AH?!
SNAP
YOU SMELL.
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE? WE JUST MET! THEY'RE RIPPING ME APART!

YOU SMELL A LOT.
SNIFF
SNIFF


I AM JUSTIN.
UH..?


I SMELL BAD?
SNIFF
SNIFF
UH?
ME? REALLY?

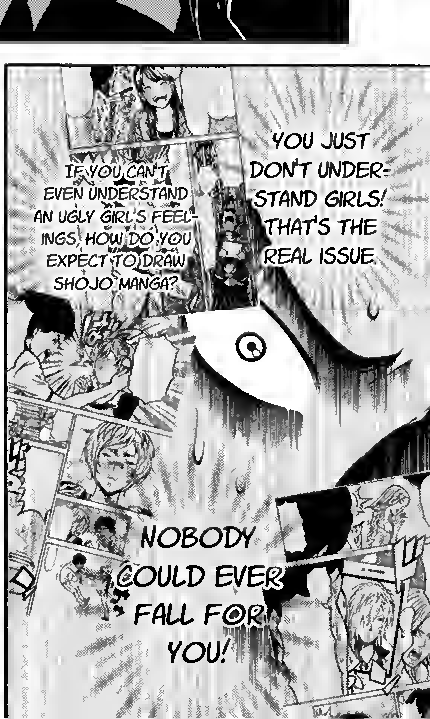
...
...

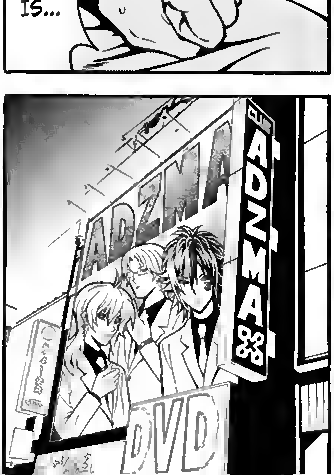

NOT BAD.
SLINK
NO.

I'LL SAY IT AGAIN.
I CAN'T GET THE PUBES OFF ME!
YOU SMELL.
YOU'RE UGLY.
HEY, AIN'T YOU S'POSED TA BE CLEANIN'?
OK!
LEAVE THE INTERVIEW TO ME!
...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THEM?!
I GIVE UP!
THEY'RE YOUNGER THAN ME, TOO!
THIS WAS A BAD IDEA!
CLICK
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WORK WITH THESE PEOPLE!
OKAY I GOT ONE MORE QUESTION FOR YA

WHY D'YOU WANNA BE A HOST, ANYWAY?
AH!

CLENCH!
THE TRUTH IS...


YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND GIRLS! THAT'S THE REAL ISSUE.
IF YOU CAN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND AN UGLY GIRL'S FEELINGS, HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO DRAW SHOJO MANGA?
NOBODY COULD EVER FALL FOR YOU!

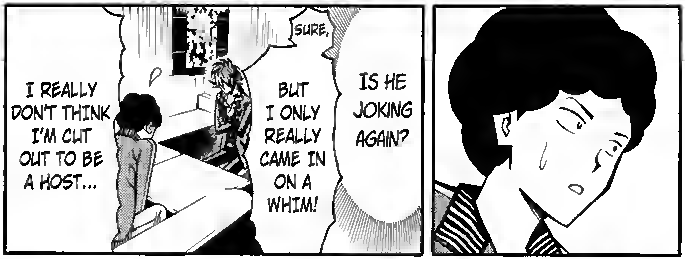

AOMA
DVD

I WANT TO BETTER UNDERSTAND GIRLS
SO I CAN CREATE GOOD SHOJO MANGA!

OH MAN..
THUD
どーん
IT SOUNDS SO STUPID OUT LOUD
NOW HE'S GOING TO FAIL ME BECAUSE OF THAT DUMB REASON
AND HE'LL MAKE FUN OF IT LIKE HE DID TO MY HAIR..
I SHOULD HAVE MADE SOMETHING UP!

WH—WHAT?
WELL, I MEAN,
HUH?!
THAT'S SO COOL!

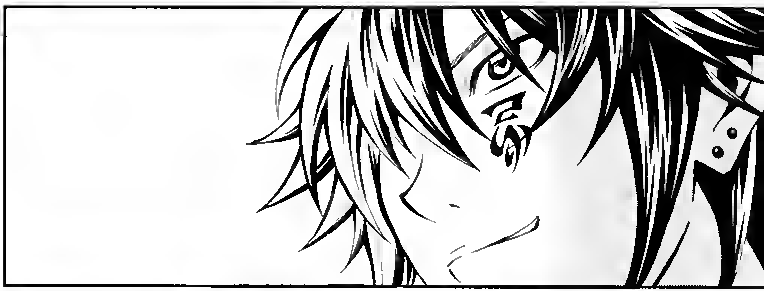
I JUST THOUGHT THAT TRYIN' SOMETHIN' TOTALLY NEW WHEN YOU'RE THIRTY,
THAT'S PRETTY GREAT.

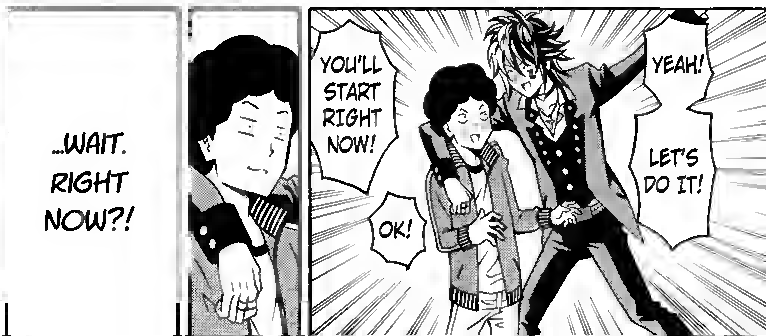

SURE,
I REALLY DON'T THINK I'M CUT OUT TO BE A HOST...
BUT I ONLY REALLY CAME IN ON A WHIM!
IS HE JOKING AGAIN?

NO WAY, KOBA-YASHI-KUN!
WE'LL FIGHT THIS BATTLE SIDE BY SIDE!
STICK WITH US AND I'LL- WE'LL- SHAPE YOU UP!
ACK!
CRIP

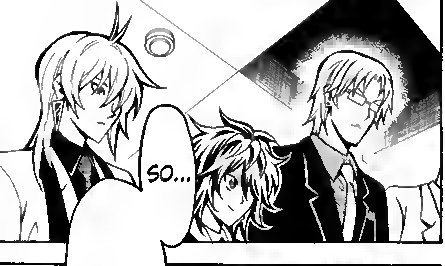
AND THEN ...
ONCE YOU WRITE A GOOD SHOJO MANGA, LET ME READ IT!
OK?!
I...

I'LL DO IT!
YES!
I'LL WORK WITH YOU, SOUL!
I'LL BECOME A HOST!

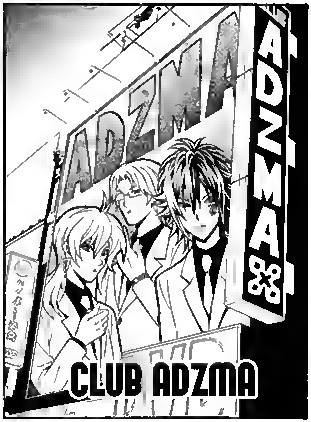



YEAH!
LET'S DO IT!
YOU'LL START RIGHT NOW!
OK!
...WAIT. RIGHT NOW?!

WAIT--
UH-
SOUL-SAN?
WHOA!
IT'S A HAND-ME-DOWN BUT IT'S LOOKIN' GOOD! ♪
...
YOU REALLY MEANT
TODAY?!
YEP! ♡
YOU'LL LEARN FASTER DOING! ♡
I'M NOT READY YET!!
SCREAM
TO BE CONTNUED IN 3RD NIGHT: HOST DEBUT!


SO...
WE GOT A NEWBIE ON STAFF TONIGHT.

SOUL
TITLE: ASST. MANAGER


ADZMA
CLUB ADZMA

MEET KOBAYASHI-KUN!
OK,
TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!
...

MY DREAM IS TO BE A SHOJO MANGA ARTIST.
I'M HERE BECAUSE AS A HOST I CAN FIND OUT HOW WOMEN THINK AND WHAT THEY WANT.

story and art by
Satoshi Kinoshita
Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
VIKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan Inc.

This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.

BAM BAM

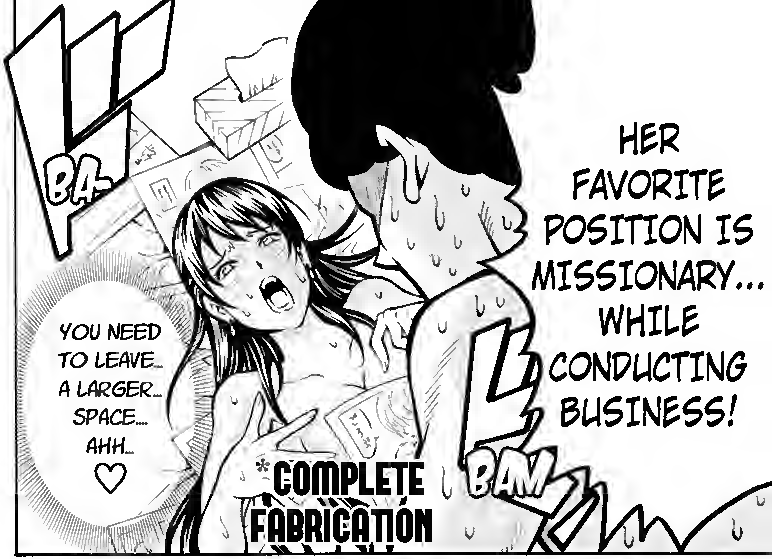
3RD NIGHT: HOST DEBUT!

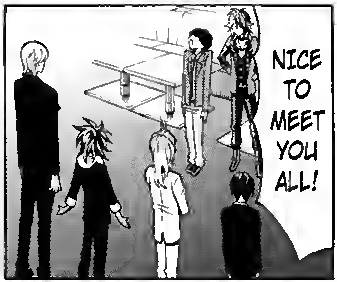
BAM

FIVE MINUTES AGO...
WHEN YA INTRODUCE YERSELF TO THE TEAM, SAY YOUR NAME, AGE,
NUMBER OF GIRL-FRIENDS, YOUR LAST EX'S NAME, AND HER FAVORITE POSITION.
WHAT?!
EX-GIRL-FRIEND FREE
EXES? POSI-TIONS?
COME ON! IT'S JUST A FUN TRA-DITION WE HAVE HERE.
RUN WITH IT!
...

AND IN THE PRESENT...
UH...
MY LAST GIRL-FRIEND WAS...
EX'S NAME... FAVORITE POSITIONS...
HAS NEVER DATED
DA-
DA-
DA-
...

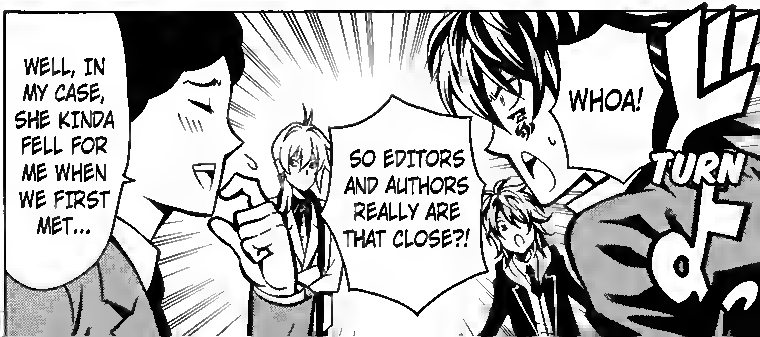
BAM
*HUGE LIE
YUKO MATSU-SHIMA!
MY EDITOR AT BESSATSU FRIEND MAGAZINE!

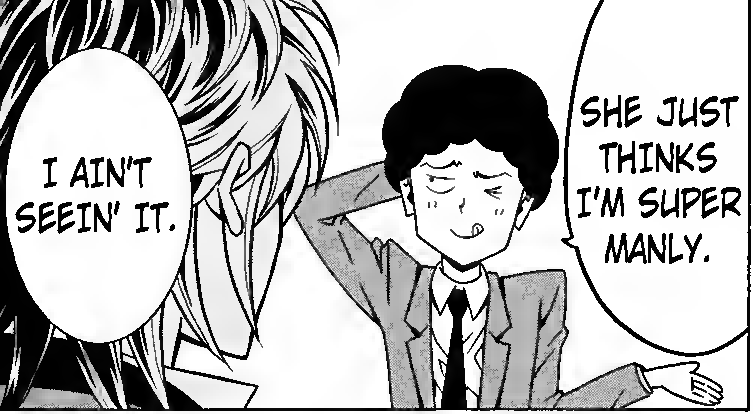

BA
YOU NEED TO LEAVE... A LARGER... SPACE.... AHH... ♡
*COMPLETE FABRICATION
BAM
HER FAVORITE POSITION IS MISSIONARY... WHILE CONDUCTING BUSINESS!

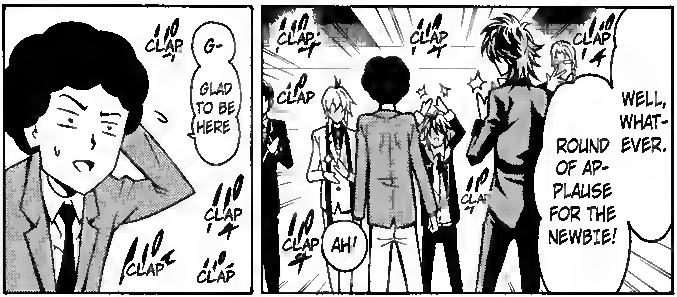

NICE TO MEET YOU ALL!

SHIVER
WHAT A CHILLY DRAFT...

CHILLY!

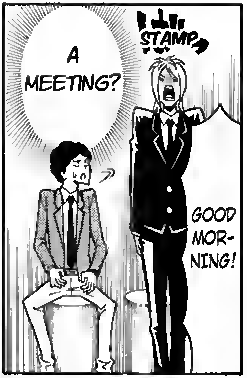

WELL, IN MY CASE, SHE KINDA FELL FOR ME WHEN WE FIRST MET...
SO EDITORS AND AUTHORS REALLY ARE THAT CLOSE?!
WHOA!
TURN

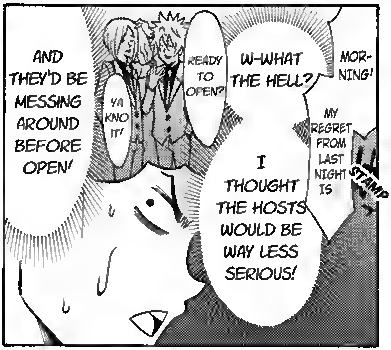

I AIN'T SEEIN' IT.
SHE JUST THINKS I'M SUPER MANLY.


CLAP
G-
GLAD TO BE HERE
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
AH!
WELL, WHATEVER. ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR THE NEWBIE!

LET'S HAVE OUR PRE-OPEN MEETING!
HUH?
ALL RIGHT!
WITH THAT OUTTA THE WAY,

*New customers meet with all hosts, then "name" a specific host with which they spend subsequent visits.




AND THEY'D BE MESSING AROUND BEFORE OPEN!
READY TO OPEN?
W-WHAT THE HELL?
MORNING!
YA KNO IT!
MY REGRET FROM LAST NIGHT IS
STAMP
I THOUGHT THE HOSTS WOULD BE WAY LESS SERIOUS!

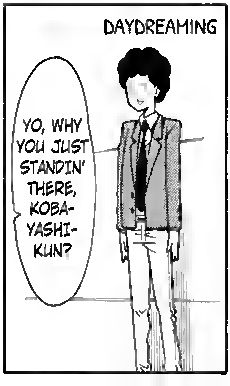
STARTING TO C...
HOSTS ARE WAY BETTER PEOPLE THAN I THOUGHT...
MORNING!
I'M ALSO PLANNING TO VISIT KOBAYASHI-KUN'S TABLES TO MAKE SURE HE LEARNS THE PROPER ETIQUETTE!
YOU'RE LOOKING AFTER A NEWBIE LIKE ME?

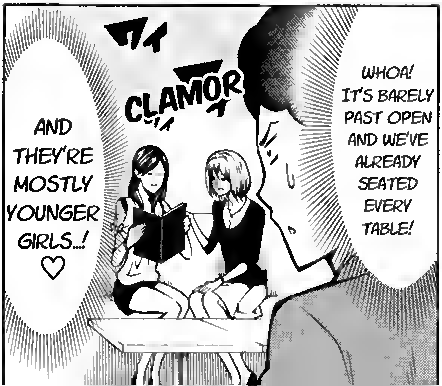
GOOD MORNING
ALTHOUGH KOBAYASHI-KUN CLAIMED TO HAVE "LOTS OF EXPERIENCE",
AS FOR MY GOAL FOR THE DAY...
JUSTIN
TITLE: ASST. MANAGER
I'M FAIRLY CERTAIN HE'S NEVER DATED.
OH NO!
TO BE FRANK, HE REEKS OF BACHELOR-HOOD.
OH NO NO NO!
SQUEAK
GLARE
I'LL MAKE IT MY GOAL TODAY TO DIG TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.
THAT IS ALL.
HE SAW RIGHT THROUGH ME!!
SO THIS IS WHAT HE MEANT WHEN HE SAID I SMELLED?!

I AGREE.
DOES OUR ESTABLISHMENT RAISE ANIMALS?
I THOUGHT HE WAS UGLY, BUT LOOKING CLOSER, HE SEEMS TO BE A PIG WHO HAS DECIDED TO DRESS UP LIKE A HUMAN.
GASP
THAT'S TAKING THINGS TOO FAR!
MARCO
TITLE: ASST. MANAGER
NO WAY, MARCO-KUN! HE'S NOT A PIG!
FROM HIS HAIR, YOU'D THINK HE'S A SHEEP... BUT SINCE HE'S WAY TOO LOW-QUALITY TO EAT, SO I THINK HE MIGHT JUST BE...
A DICK. I MEAN, HIS HAIR'S JUST LIKE PUBES, RIGHT? HE'S A DICK-HEAD.
CHOKE
AND THE FOLLOW-UP WAS EVEN WORSE!
MEMETA
TITLE: SUPER-VISOR
JUST TEASING, HEHE! KOBA-YASHI-KUN!
'GRATS!
EVERYONE SEEMS TA LIKE YOU!
SPLITTER
OH REALLY? HOW COULD YOU TELL?

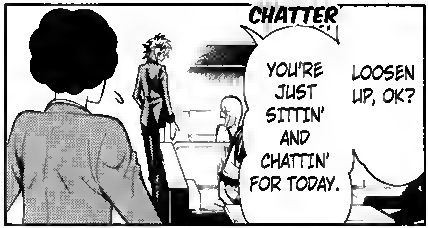
WE'RE GONNA PUT ON A WAY AWESOME NIGHT AT CLUB ADZMA!
BAM
OKAY, ONE LAST THING!
EVEN THOUGH THE THREE TOP BRASS AIN'T HERE,
NOW LET'S DO IT!
YEAH!
BAM
ADZMA
WE'RE FINALLY ABOUT TO OPEN...
GULP
CLANG
TICK
TOCK
TICK

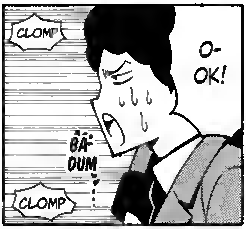
WELCOME TO CLUB ADZMA!
WOO!
HELLO, EVERY-ONE!

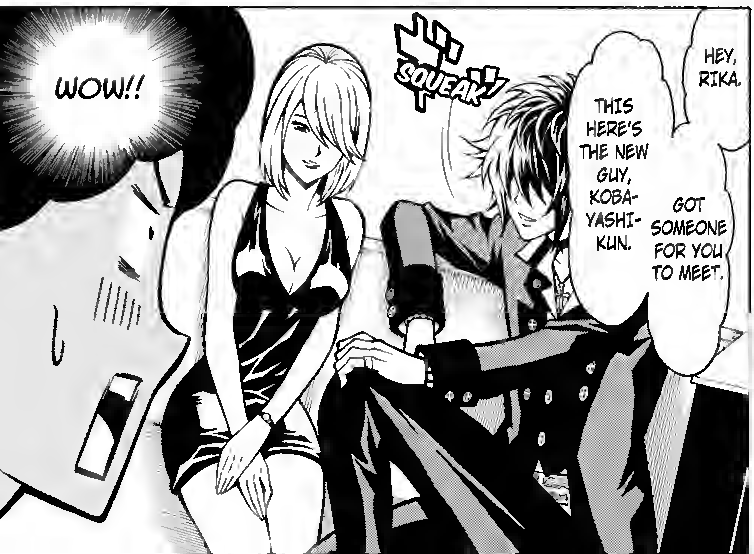

DAYDREAMING
YO, WHY YOU JUST STANDIN' THERE, KOBA-YASHI-KUN?


CLAMOR
AND THEY'RE MOSTLY YOUNGER GIRLS...! ♡
WHOA! IT'S BARELY PAST OPEN AND WE'VE ALREADY SEATED EVERY TABLE!

LET'S GET TO IT!
I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF MY REGULARS!
GRAB
UH?


CHATTER
YOU'RE JUST SITTIN' AND CHATTIN' FOR TODAY.
LOOSEN UP, OK?


CLOMP
O-OK!
BA-DUM
CLOMP

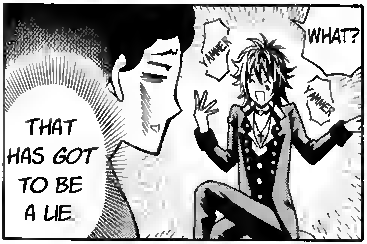

WOW!!
SQUEAK
HEY, RIKA.
THIS HERE'S THE NEW GUY, KOBAYASHI-KUN.
GOT SOMEONE FOR YOU TO MEET.

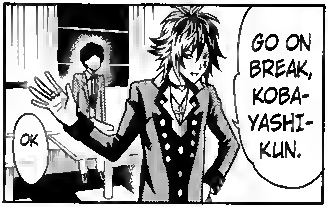
SHE'S HOT! AND STACKED TOO!
WHY, HELLO THERE.
BA-DUM
H... HELLO ...
I'M... KOBA... YASHI...
OOH, BURN!
BURN?
HEHE!
SO DID YOU WORK AT A DIFFERENT HOST CLUB BEFORE?
BEING 30 IS A BURN NOW?
UH, WELL.
HEY!
HE'S 30!
PRAC-TICALLY ANCIENT!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING SOUL?
BA-DUM
... G... AY... P... DA... S...
IT'D BE GREAT TO SAY OTHER-WISE, BUT I'M PRETTY MUCH ON DAY ONE AS A HOST!
YOU WORKED AT GAY PARA-DISE?
WHAT WAS THAT?
THE GAY BAR IN NI-CHOME?
NO!

HAHAHA, YOU GOTTA LOOSEN UP, KOBA-YASHI-KUN!
BA-DUM
AH!
I JUST CAN'T GET THE WORDS OUT!
Y'SEE, IT'S HIS FIRST NIGHT HOSTIN'!
IS THAT SO? THEN WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE?
I WAS TRYING REALLY HARD TO JUST DRAW GOOD SHOJO MANGA!
BA-DUM
UM...
I...
...
WA.. RY... R... JUST... SH...
YOU, A SUPER HERO?
WAR-RIOR OF JUST-ICE?!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
WHAT THE HELL AM I SAYING?! GET IT TO-GETHER, KOBA!
KOBAYASHI-KUN IS AN ASPIRING SHOJO MANGA ARTIST!
WHAT HE MEANS IS,
HE WAS DRAWIN' A MAGICAL GIRLS COMIC!
OH! SO WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A HOST?
...
WELL, HE'S GOT A GREAT REASON!
HE'S TRYIN' TO STUDY WHAT WOMEN WANT!
...

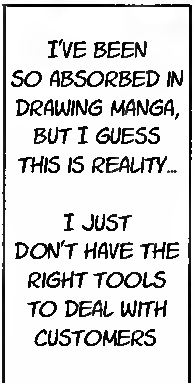
EH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
I COULDN'T TALK AT ALL AT FIRST EITHER!
I JUST COULDN'T TALK. MY MIND WENT BLANK.
SORRY

COLLAPSE


WHAT?
YAWN
YAWN
THAT HAS GOT TO BE A LIE.


GO ON BREAK, KOBA-YASHI-KUN.
OK

WHISPER
SOUL-SAN, CAN YOU CLOSE OUT TABLE B4?
YEP. ON MY WAY.


I'VE BEEN SO ABSORBED IN DRAWING MANGA, BUT I GUESS THIS IS REALITY...
I JUST DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS TO DEAL WITH CUSTOMERS

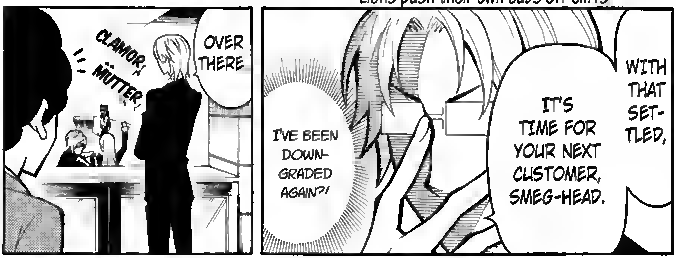
I WISH I WAS SOCIALLY ADEPT LIKE SOUL-SAN...
CLAMOR
AHAHA!

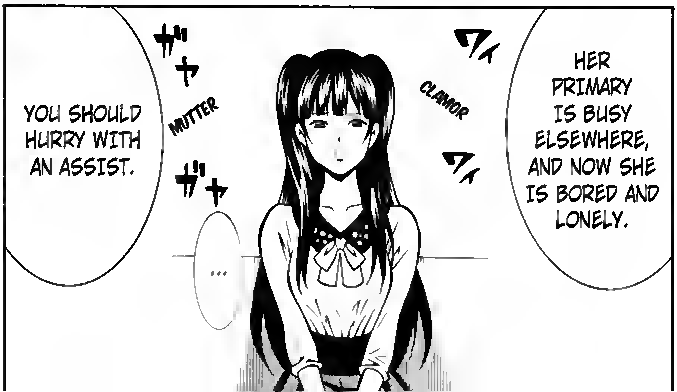
MARCO-SAN?
HUH?
SLIP
clink
SQUEAL
I'M NOT THE STORE PET!
IT'S FEEDING TIME, DICK-HEAD.
THERE'S NO WAY TO GET IT PERFECT THE FIRST TIME.
OH!
A GUEST BOUGHT IT FOR ME.
WHAT IS IT REALLY?
SCREECH
OW! CAN YOU REALLY CALL YOURSELF HUMAN EITHER AFTER THAT?!
AND YOU'RE JUST AN ANIMAL.
WORRYING IS SOME-THING ONLY HUMANS DO.
YOU'RE TRYING TO CHEER ME UP?
SO STOP SECOND-GUESSING YOURSELF.
MARCO-SAN..
AFTER ALL...

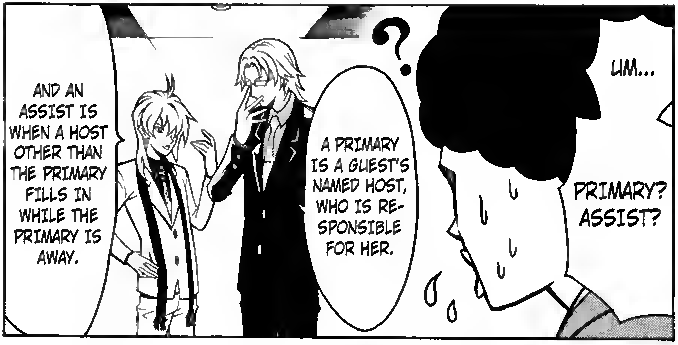
...
LET'S GET YOU FED AND PUT YOU BACK TO WORK.
CHOMP
AAAH...
UM, TH-THANK YOU.
GASP!
HE'S FINALLY COME FOR ME!
DIDN'T ANYONE TELL YOU, "DON'T FEED THE VIRGIN?"
CHEW
CHEW

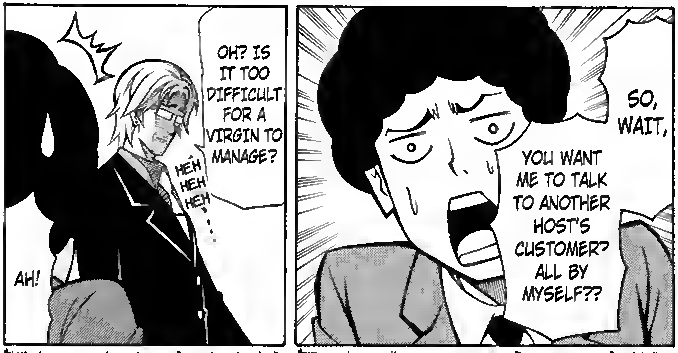
WE JAPANESE HAVE A SAYING...
"LIONS PUSH VIRGINS OFF CLIFFS."
WHUMP
YOU SHOULD NOT SPOIL HIM, MARCO.
THAT'S WRONG! AND STOP CALLING ME A VIRGIN!
GRAZIE, JUSTIN!
I WILL TAKE THIS LESSON TO HEART.
WHEN I NEXT VISIT HOME, I WILL PUSH MY YOUNG BROTHER OFF THE CLOSEST CLIFF.
SQUEAK
DON'T MEMORIZE MISQUOTES!

*"Lions push their own cubs off cliffs."





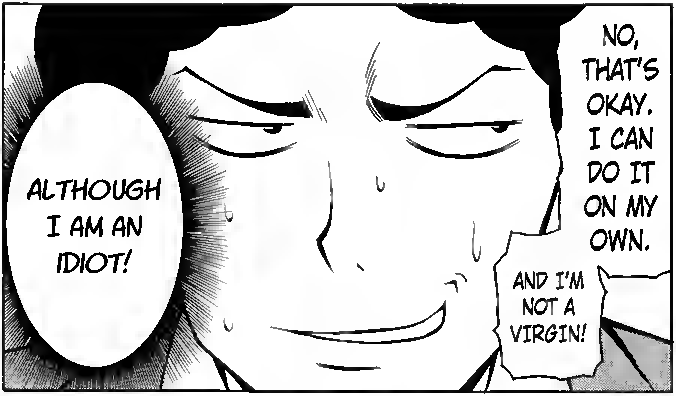

UM...
PRIMARY? ASSIST?
A PRIMARY IS A GUEST'S NAMED HOST, WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR HER.
AND AN ASSIST IS WHEN A HOST OTHER THAN THE PRIMARY FILLS IN WHILE THE PRIMARY IS AWAY.

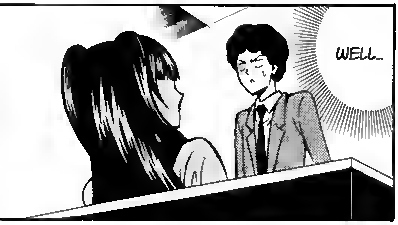

SO, WAIT,
YOU WANT ME TO TALK TO ANOTHER HOST'S CUSTOMER? ALL BY MYSELF??
OH? IS IT TOO DIFFICULT FOR A VIRGIN TO MANAGE?
HEH HEH HEH...
AH!

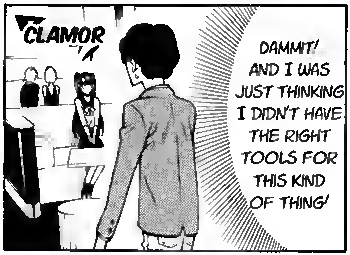
*"Even the smallest worm contains five measures of spirit."

*"Kindness to others is not for others' sake."

I SEE "EVEN THE SMALLEST VIRGIN CONTAINS FIVE MEASURES OF SOUL-SAN."
I'LL ACCOMPANY YOU.
...
...
"KINDNESS TO ANIMALS IS NOT FOR ANIMALS' SAKE."
WE WILL BOTH BACK YOU UP.

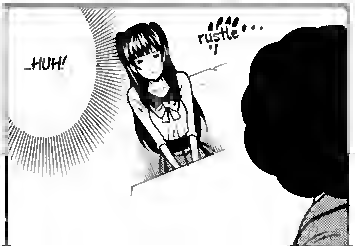

NO, THAT'S OKAY. I CAN DO IT ON MY OWN.
AND I'M NOT A VIRGIN!
ALTHOUGH I AM AN IDIOT!


WELL...


CLAMOR
DAMMIT! AND I WAS JUST THINKING I DIDN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THIS KIND OF THING!

I CAN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT!

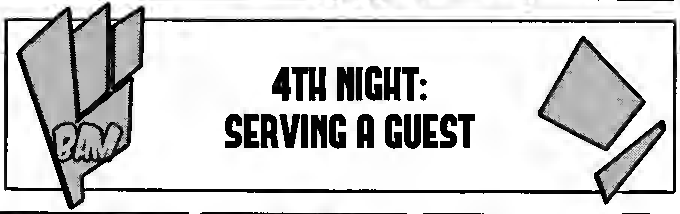
I WON'T BE AS NERVOUS IF I TAKE CHARGE OF THE CONVERSATION!
SHE SEEMS A LOT MORE DOWN-TO-EARTH THAN RIKA-SAN


rustle
...
...HUH?

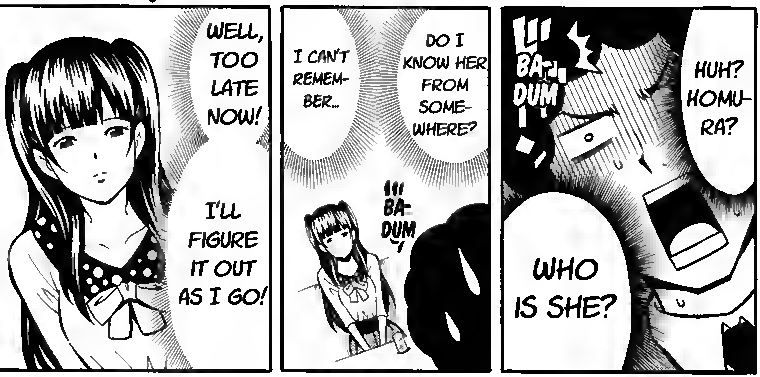
CONTINUED IN 4TH NIGHT: SERVING A GUEST!

MangaBox

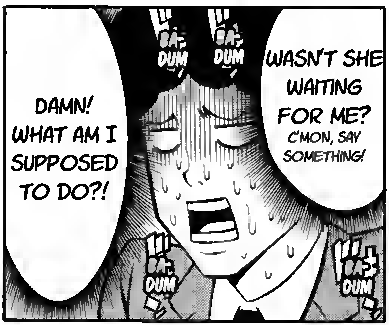
story and art by
Satoshi Kinoshita
Translation by Devin Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
YKS Services, LLC / SKY-Japan Inc.

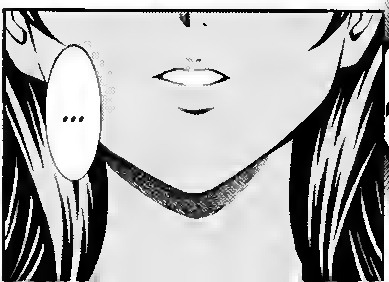


4TH NIGHT: SERVING A GUEST

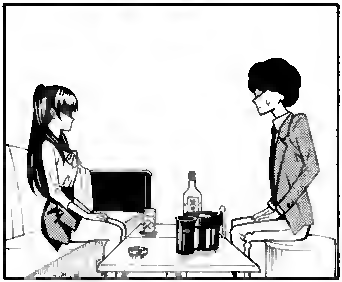


深々と
STIFF, RESPECTFUL
I'M KOBA-YASHI.
THANK YOU FOR WAITING!
P–
PLEASE EXCUSE ME!
NO!
BOW
!!!


BA-DUM
BA-DUM
DAMN! WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
WASN'T SHE WAITING FOR ME? C'MON, SAY SOMETHING!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM


...

Uh... SILENCE
BA-DUM
NO RESPONSE...



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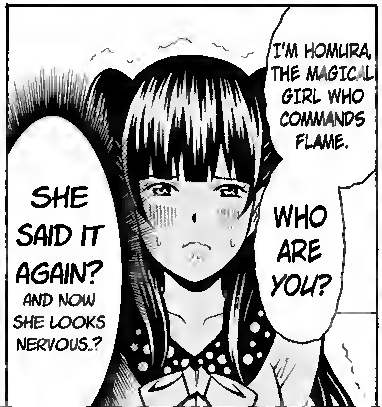
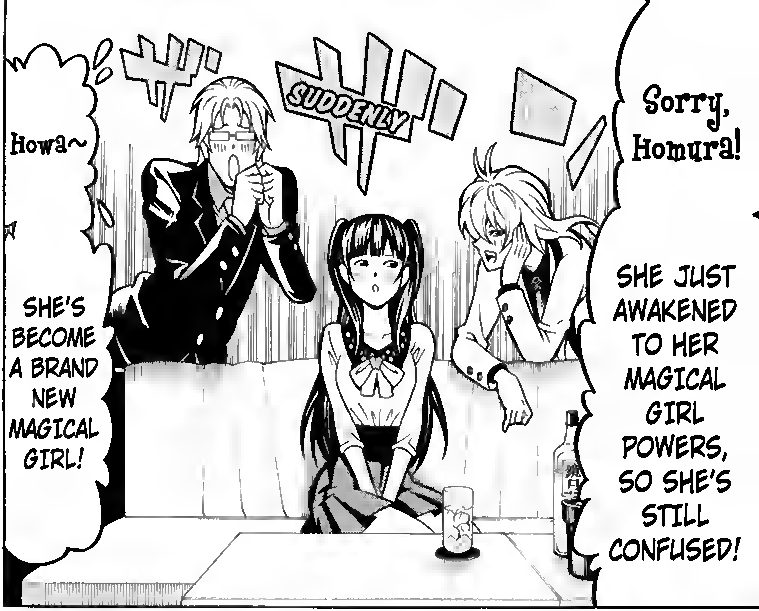
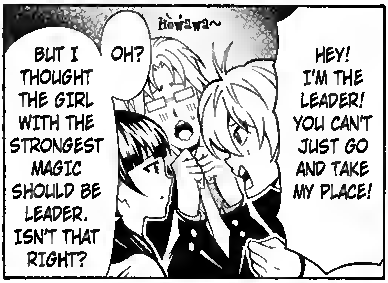


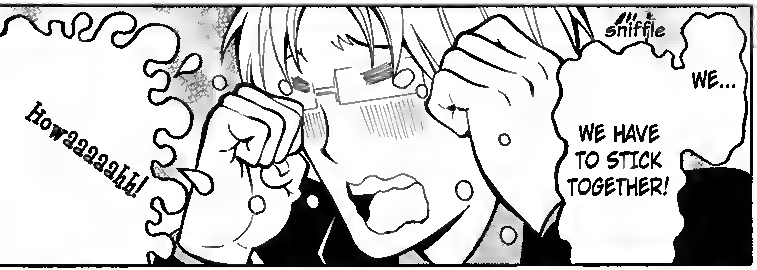

Howa~
SUDDENLY
Sorry, Homura!
SHE'S BECOME A BRAND NEW MAGICAL GIRL!
SHE JUST AWAKENED TO HER MAGICAL GIRL POWERS, SO SHE'S STILL CONFUSED!


Howwa~
OH?
BUT I THOUGHT THE GIRL WITH THE STRONGEST MAGIC SHOULD BE LEADER. ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
HEY! I'M THE LEADER! YOU CAN'T JUST GO AND TAKE MY PLACE!

はHowa~ n?
GRR!
AHEM!
HUH?!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING,
ABAN-DONING YOUR LEADER LIKE THAT?
MARCO-SAN? JUSTIN-SAN? WHAT'S WITH THE FALSETTO VOICES AND BAD ACTING?!

FINE BY ME! DO YOUR WORST!
SHALL I PROVE IT TO YOU?
WHO DECIDED YOU'RE STRONG-EST, HUH?
Ho

SHRIEK
PLEASE DON'T FIGHT!

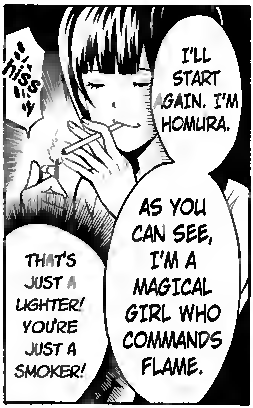

Howaggaahh!
snitfile
WE...
WE HAVE TO STICK TOGETHER!

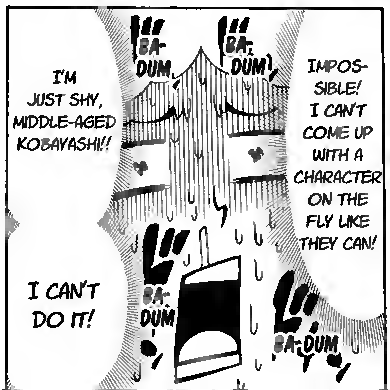
I–
IT'S OKAY, JUS-KO! I WAS JUST KIDDING!
WE WEREN'T FIGHTING! WE'RE COMRADES!
R–REALLY? I'M SO GLAD...
GEEZ. SOME DAYS I THINK JUS-KO IS ALREADY THE BEST LEADER.
ME TOO.

Ehehehehe
GASP!
WHAT THE HELL?!

AND I'M MAR-KO!
MAGICAL GIRL OF THUNDER! I SEND PEALS OF THUNDER INTO THE HEADS OF THOSE WHO DRINK THE MORNING AFTER!
THAT'S A HANGOVER!

I'M JUS-KO!
I'M A MAGICAL GIRL WITH THE ABILITY TO CREATE DRINKS THAT CAN INTOXICATE ANYONE!
THAT'S NOT MAGIC! THAT'S YOUR JOB!


I'LL START AGAIN. I'M HOMURA.
HISS
AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M A MAGICAL GIRL WHO COMMANDS FLAME.
THAT'S JUST A LIGHTER! YOU'RE JUST A SMOKER!


I'M JUST SHY, MIDDLE-AGED KOBAYASHI!!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
IMPOSSIBLE! I CAN'T COME UP WITH A CHARACTER ON THE FLY LIKE THEY CAN!
I CAN'T DO IT!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

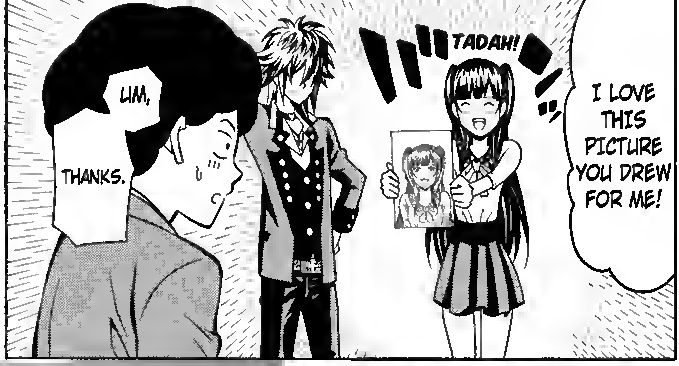
MY MAGIC?!
SO,
NOW THAT YOU'RE ONE OF US,
TELL US WHAT YOUR MAGIC CAN DO!
AACK!

BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TOOLS...
WAIT! I CAN'T GIVE UP!
I HAVEN'T LEARNED ANYTHING IN THE PAST 30 YEARS THAT WOULD—
I'VE GOT IT.
shiver
I'M DONE FOR!
HM?
A SKETCHBOOK?
STRIDE
SKETCH BOOK
SKETCH
SKETCH
SKETCH
SKETCH BOOK

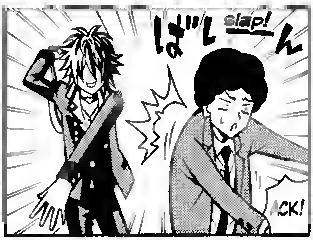
BA-DUN
I AM YASHI-KO KOBA!
A MAGICAL GIRL WITH THE POWER TO TRAP SOULS IN PAPER!
BA-DUN
——AH!!
YOU..! YOU WERE AN ENEMY AGENT THIS WHOLE TIME?!
FAINT!
NOO!
HUH?
HOMURA-CHAN?
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS!
UH-
HOMURA! BRING HOMURA BACK!!
BA-DUN
WHAT?!
BA-DUN

WELCOME BACK!
SOUL-KUN!
GOOD TO BE BACK!
LOOKS LIKE YER HAVIN' FUN, HUH, HOMURA?
poke
UNTIL NEXT TIME.
CLINK
AS USUAL, IT WAS FUN.
THANKS GUYS! ♡♡♡
SINCE SHE'S BACK WITH HER PRIMARY, FURTHERING THE ASSIST IS UNNECESSARY.
SOUL HAS RETURNED
MURMUR
THANKS!
BA-DUM
UH?
COME WITH ME.
WHA?
THAT GIRL IS AN ANIME FAN WHO LIKES DAYDREAMS AND ROLE-PLAYING.
IT'S OUR JOB TO CONFORM TO THE RULES OF HER FANTASY WORLD.
THAT'S WHAT WE CALL A "SERVICE."
SO, WHAT HAPPENED? DID I MESS UP?
I'M A FAILURE!
HUH?
BA-DUM

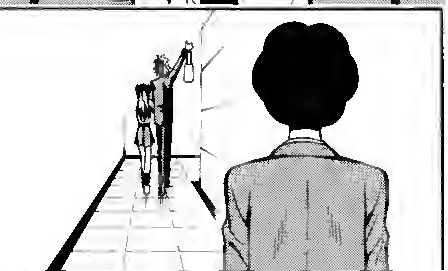
WE DISCOVER OUR GUESTS' DESIRES,
BAM
AND FULFILL THEM.
THAT'S WHAT HOSTING IS ALL ABOUT.
BAM
IF WE LOOK AT IT THAT WAY,
YOU WEREN'T BAD.
YOU PASS, FOR NOW.
YA DID GOOD!
AH!
SOUL-SAN? HOMURA-SAN?


UM,
THANKS.
TADAH!
I LOVE THIS PICTURE YOU DREW FOR ME!

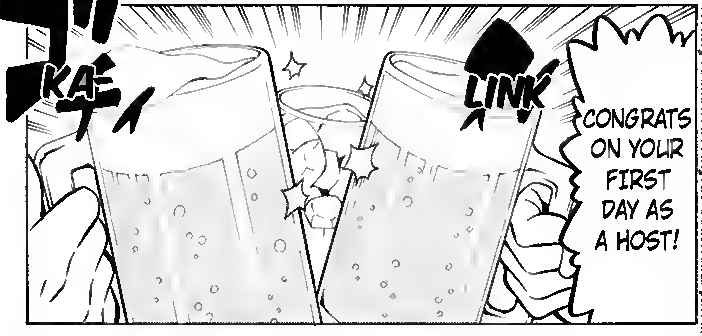
DRAWIN' PICTURES LIKE THAT...
THAT'S A SPECIAL SKILL ONLY YOU HAVE, KOBAYASHI-KUN!


slap!
CK!

NO, THANK YOU!



SKETCH BOOK
HE SAID, "I'M A MAGICAL GIRL WITH THE POWER TO TRAP SOULS IN PAPER!"
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT, JUSSY?
ACK!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU TWO!!
I'M WITH YOU, MAR-CHAN. THAT'S JUST PART OF THE CREEPINESS POTENTIAL OF JAPANESE VIRGINS.
WHAT A THING FOR A 30-YEAR-OLD TO SAY!
JAPANESE PEOPLE ARE SCARY!
SKREECH!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 5TH NIGHT: STAGE NAME SOLUTION!



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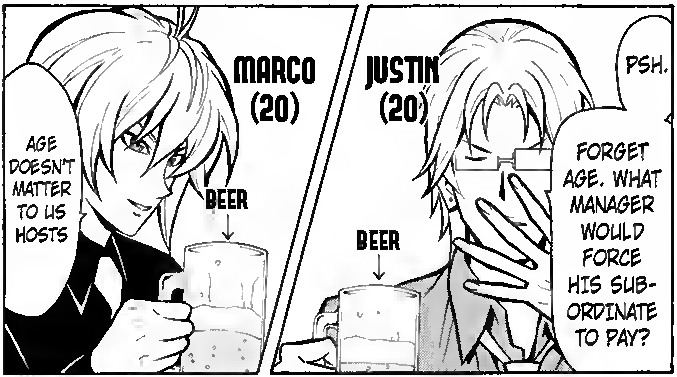
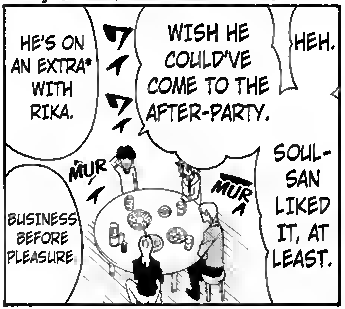
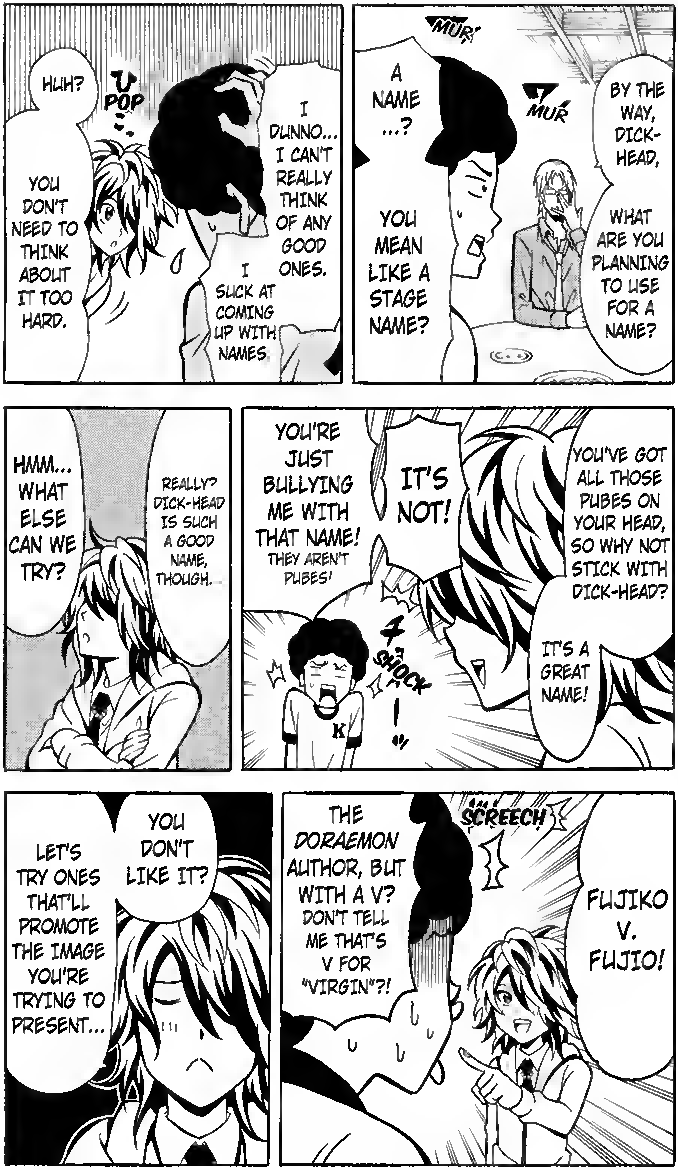
5TH NIGHT: STAGE NAME SOLUTION!

SHOTA KOBAYASHI (30)
WATER
ANYWAY, ARE YOU SURE IT'S OK?
I'M OLDER THAN YOU BUT YOU'RE PAYING FOR ME TONIGHT?
HEY, THANKS.
I'M STILL KIND OF OVER-WHELMED BY IT ALL.



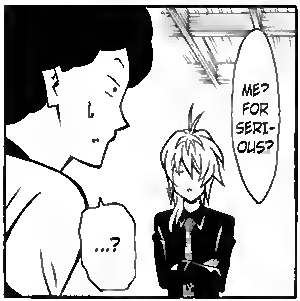
*meeting with a valued customer for a date outside the Club

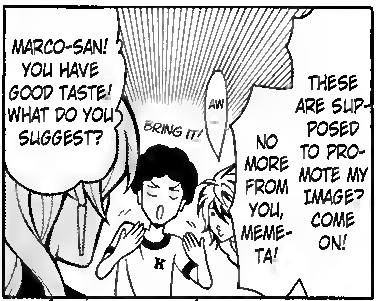


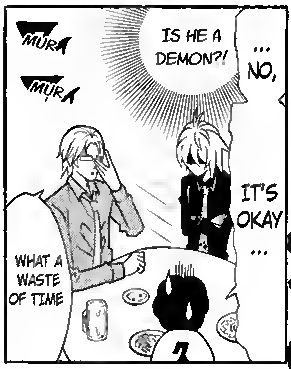

MUR
BY THE WAY, DICK-HEAD,
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO USE FOR A NAME?
MUR
A NAME ...?
YOU MEAN LIKE A STAGE NAME?
I DUNNO... I CAN'T REALLY THINK OF ANY GOOD ONES.
I SUCK AT COMING UP WITH NAMES.
POP
HUH?
YOU DON'T NEED TO THINK ABOUT IT TOO HARD.
IT'S NOT!
YOU'RE JUST BULLYING ME WITH THAT NAME!
THEY AREN'T PUBES!
SHOCK
YOU'VE GOT ALL THOSE PUBES ON YOUR HEAD, SO WHY NOT STICK WITH DICK-HEAD?
IT'S A GREAT NAME!
REALLY? DICK-HEAD IS SUCH A GOOD NAME, THOUGH.
HMM... WHAT ELSE CAN WE TRY?
SCREECH
THE DORAEMON AUTHOR, BUT WITH A V? DON'T TELL ME THAT'S V FOR "VIRGIN"?!
FUJIKO V. FUJIO!
YOU DON'T LIKE IT?
LET'S TRY ONES THAT'LL PROMOTE THE IMAGE YOU'RE TRYING TO PRESENT...

FOREVER ALAN!
STEVEN GOT DUMPED BY A SEX WORKER!
THESE AREN'T NAMES, THEY'RE INSULTS!
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!

ALWAYS AN AS-SISTANT, NEVER AN ARTHUR!
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
AND DON'T JUST PUT A NAME AT THE END!
YELP


ME? FOR SERI-OUS?
...?


MARCO-SAN! YOU HAVE GOOD TASTE! WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?
AW
BRING IT!
NO MORE FROM YOU, MEME-TA!
THESE ARE SUP-POSED TO PRO-MOTE MY IMAGE? COME ON!

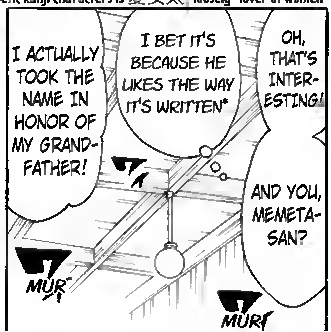

MUFA
MUFA
IS HE A DEMON?!
... NO,
IT'S OKAY ...
WHAT A WASTE OF TIME

YOU WANT ME TO NAME AN UGLY ANIMAL LIKE YOU?
ME?
YOU WANT ME?

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BECOME A SHOJO MANGA AUTHOR LIKE THAT?
ARE YOU GOING TO RELY ON OTHERS FOR ALL YOUR CREATIVE THOUGHTS, DICK-HEAD?
SOMETHING YOU LIKE, AN INTERESTING PHRASE, A PERSON YOU ADMIRE. IT'S NOT THAT HARD, IS IT?
JUST TAKE INSPIRATION FROM SOMETHING CLOSE TO YOU.
AT LEAST MAKE UP YOUR OWN NAME, YOU PIECE OF TRASH!
STAB
ACK!
THIS IS STUPID
FINE, IF YOU WANT TO KNOW SO BADLY, I'LL TELL YOU.
I MEAN, HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH "JUSTIN"?
THAT'S A PRETTY WEIRD NAME TO USE
HUH.
WELL, HOW DID YOU GUYS CHOOSE YOUR NAMES?

I TOOK MY THREE FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT WOMEN.
"JU" FROM "JUGS", "ST" FROM "STOCK-INGS", AND "IN" FROM "INNER THIGH." JUSTIN.
WHOA! HOW DID HE GET EVEN MORE CREEPY?!

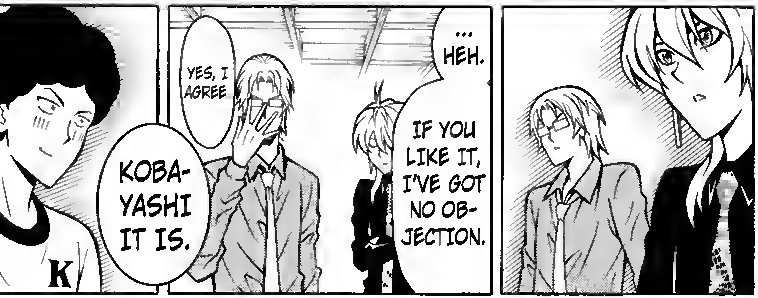
*Memeta in phonetic kanji characters is 愛女太, loosely "lover of women"


I ACTUALLY TOOK THE NAME IN HONOR OF MY GRAND-FATHER!
I BET IT'S BECAUSE HE LIKES THE WAY IT'S WRITTEN*
OH, THAT'S INTER-ESTING!
AND YOU, MEMETA-SAN?
MUR
MURI

UH.
HE'S BEEN UNEMPLOYED FOR OVER 40 YEARS AND LIVES OFF OF MY GRANDMA!
BUT INSTEAD OF ACHIEVING HIS DREAM OR SETTLING FOR A DIFFERENT JOB,
OH REALLY?
HE'S A LOT LIKE YOU, KOBAYASHI-KUN, EXCEPT HE TRIED TO BECOME A NOVELIST!
HEH HE!
OH, THAT?
IT'S 'CUZ I AIN'T REALLY TRIED YET!
ONE TIME I ASKED HIM WHY HE HADN'T GIVEN UP
AFTER NOTHING BUT REJECTION LETTERS FOR SIXTY YEARS, AND HE SAID...
beep
boop
fff
CRUSHED!
Y, YEAH SURE.
THAT'S MORE DISCOURAGING THAN FUNNY
AHAHAHAHAHA
ISN'T HE THE BEST?!
HIS PEN NAME IS MEMETA SAOTOME!

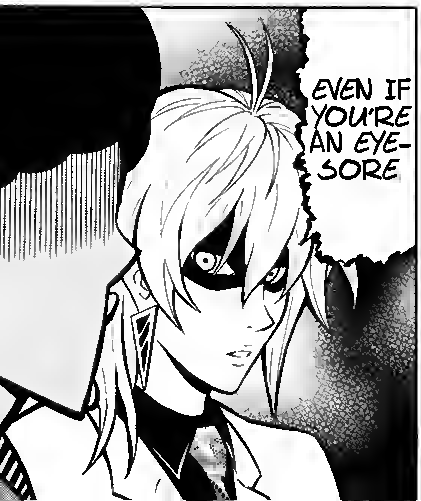
AH!
INSPI-RATION
FROM SOMETHING CLOSE TO ME...
I'LL STICK WITH KOBA-YASHI.
I... I THINK ...
I BECAME A HOST TO FIGURE OUT WOMEN, AS A STEP TOWARDS WRITING A GOOD SHOJO MANGA.
久保

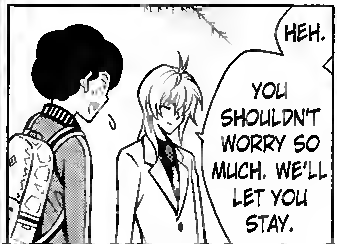
I'LL BE "KOBAYASHI THE MANGA ARTIST."
EVEN AS A HOST, I'LL CHALLENGE MYSELF TO LIVE UP TO THAT NAME.


KOBA-YASHI IT IS.
YES, I AGREE
... HEH.
IF YOU LIKE IT, I'VE GOT NO OB-JECTION.

DON'T RUIN THE MOMENT!
AHH, MEMETA FELL ASLEEP, TOO!
SQUEAL
ZZZz
ALTHOUGH THE NAME OF A 30-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN ISN'T MUCH TO LIVE UP TO.

TO BE CONTINUED IN 6TH NIGHT: THE TOKYO HOST APARTMENT!

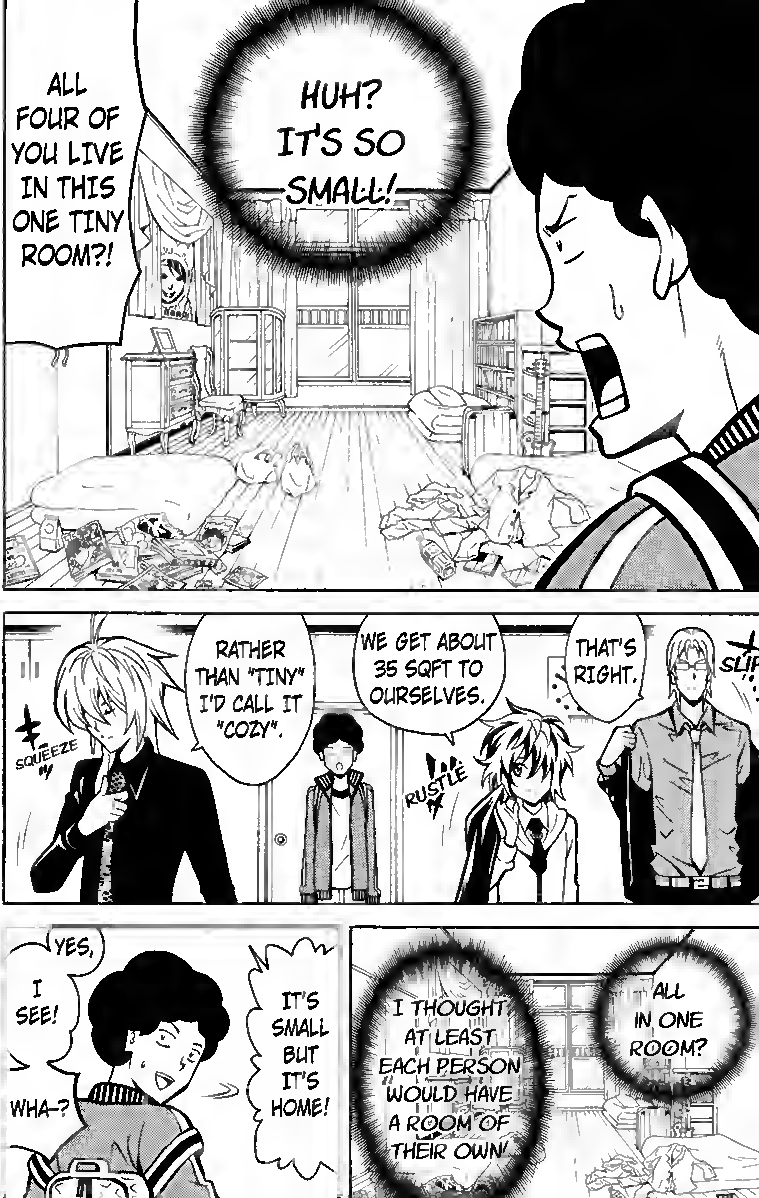




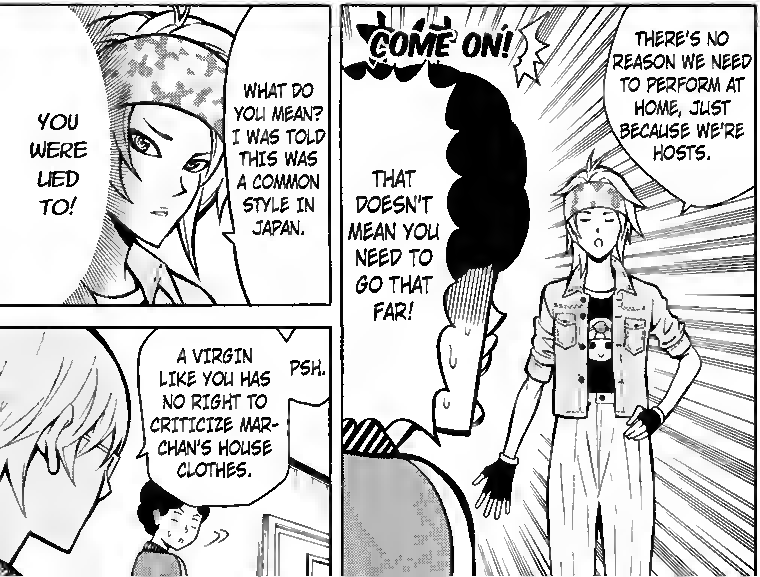
This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.

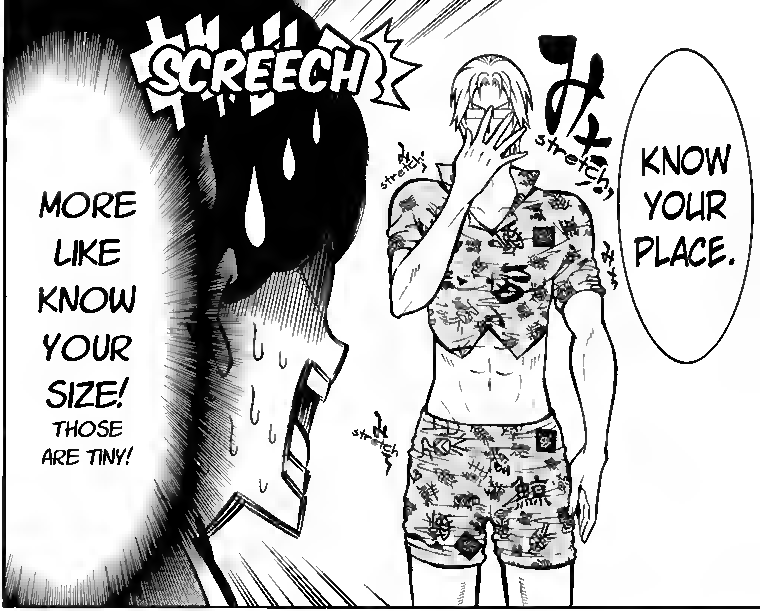
6TH NIGHT: THE TOKYO HOST APARTMENT

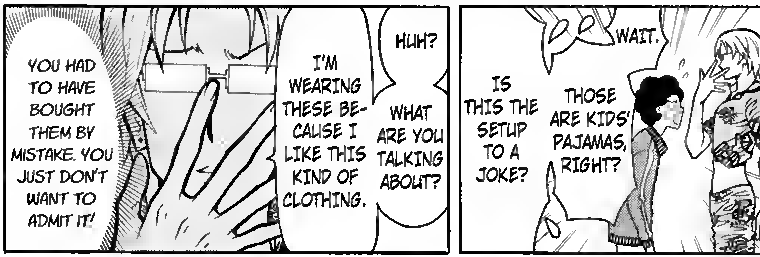
...HUH?
GULP
SOUL-SAN?
steamy
TH-
-CK
steamy
YOU'RE HERE TOO?
FRESH OUT THE BATH?
WHO THE HELL IS THIS?
WHAT?! IT'S ME, KOBAYASHI! DID YOU FORGET ABOUT ME ALREADY?!
SH-
-OCK-
SO THERE ARE UN-WHOLESOME EXTRAS AS WELL?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
OH!
slap
JUST PLAYIN'!
GOOD TO SEE YOU, KOBA-YASHI-KUN! I RUN THE APART-MENT, TOO!
HOW WAS YOUR EXTRA?
SO WHAD'YA THINK OF OUR PAD?
TA-DAH!
WE HAD A NICE DINNER, THAT'S ALL!
AN EN-TIRELY WHOLE-SOME DATE!
WINK

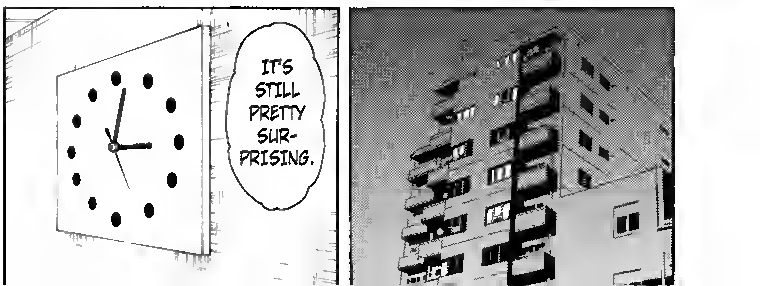

ALL FOUR OF YOU LIVE IN THIS ONE TINY ROOM?!
HUH? IT'S SO SMALL!
SQUEEZE
RATHER THAN "TINY" I'D CALL IT "COZY".
WE GET ABOUT 35 SQFT TO OURSELVES.
RUSTLE
THAT'S RIGHT.
SLIP
YES, I SEE!
WHA-?
IT'S SMALL BUT IT'S HOME!
I THOUGHT AT LEAST EACH PERSON WOULD HAVE A ROOM OF THEIR OWN!
ALL IN ONE ROOM?

HMM.
SOUL-SAN? YOU CHANGED INTO...
A TRACK-SUIT?
IT'S PRETTY COMFY!
THERE AREN'T ANY CUSTOMERS TO SEE US HERE.
A HOODIE FOR MEMETA...
I GUESS EVEN HOSTS CAN'T DRESS UP ALL THE TIME.
ESATTO!

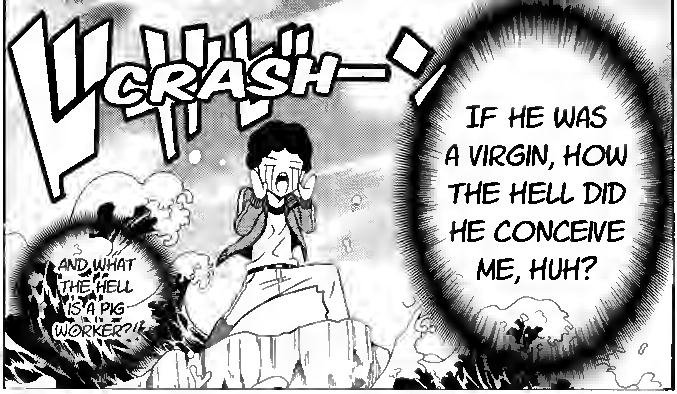

THERE'S NO REASON WE NEED TO PERFORM AT HOME, JUST BECAUSE WE'RE HOSTS.
COME ON!
THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU NEED TO GO THAT FAR!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I WAS TOLD THIS WAS A COMMON STYLE IN JAPAN.
YOU WERE LIED TO!
PSH.
A VIRGIN LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO CRITICIZE MAR-CHAN'S HOUSE CLOTHES.

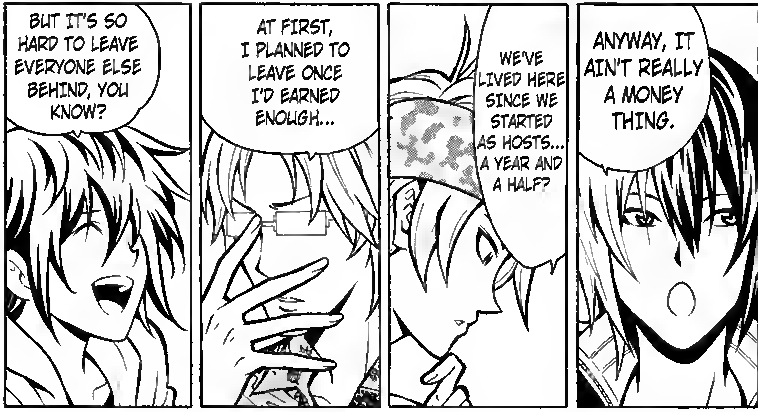

SCREECH!
MORE LIKE KNOW YOUR SIZE! THOSE ARE TINY!
stretch
stretch
stretch
KNOW YOUR PLACE.

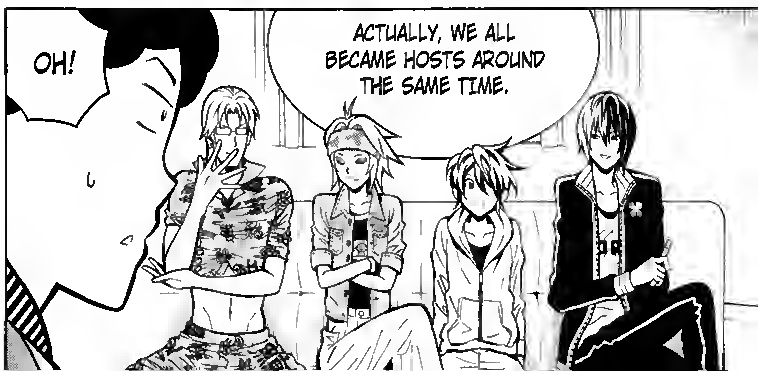

YOU HAD TO HAVE BOUGHT THEM BY MISTAKE. YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO ADMIT IT!
I'M WEARING THESE BECAUSE I LIKE THIS KIND OF CLOTHING.
HUH?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WAIT.
IS THIS THE SETUP TO A JOKE?
THOSE ARE KIDS' PAJAMAS, RIGHT?

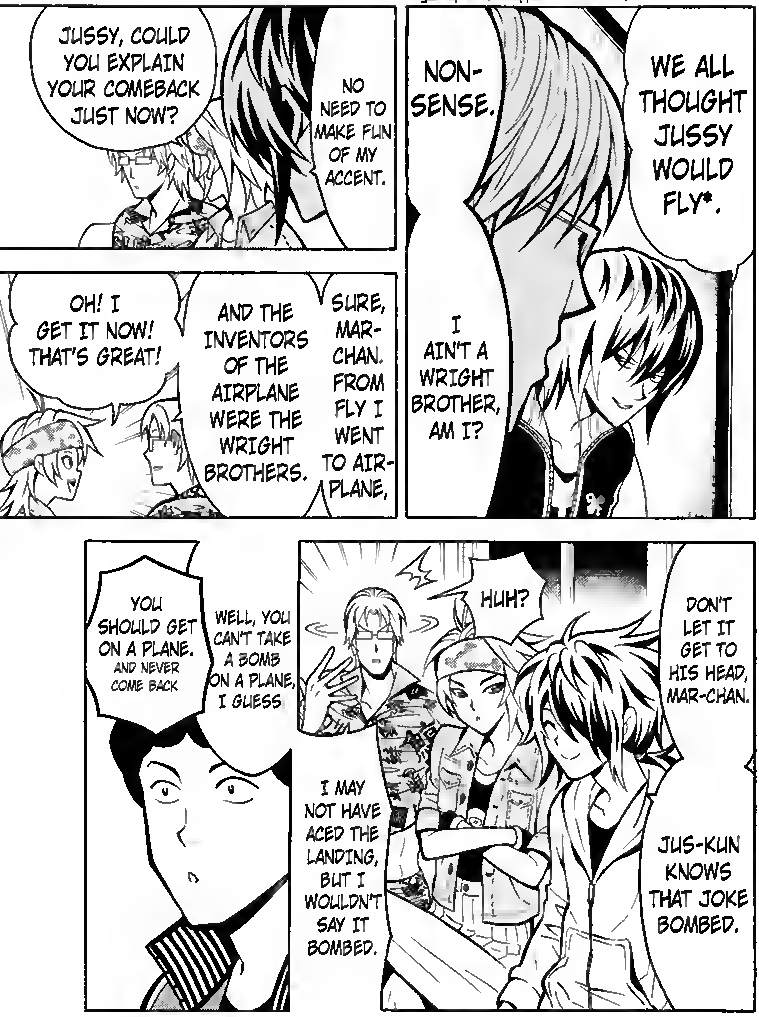

IT'S STILL PRETTY SURPRISING.

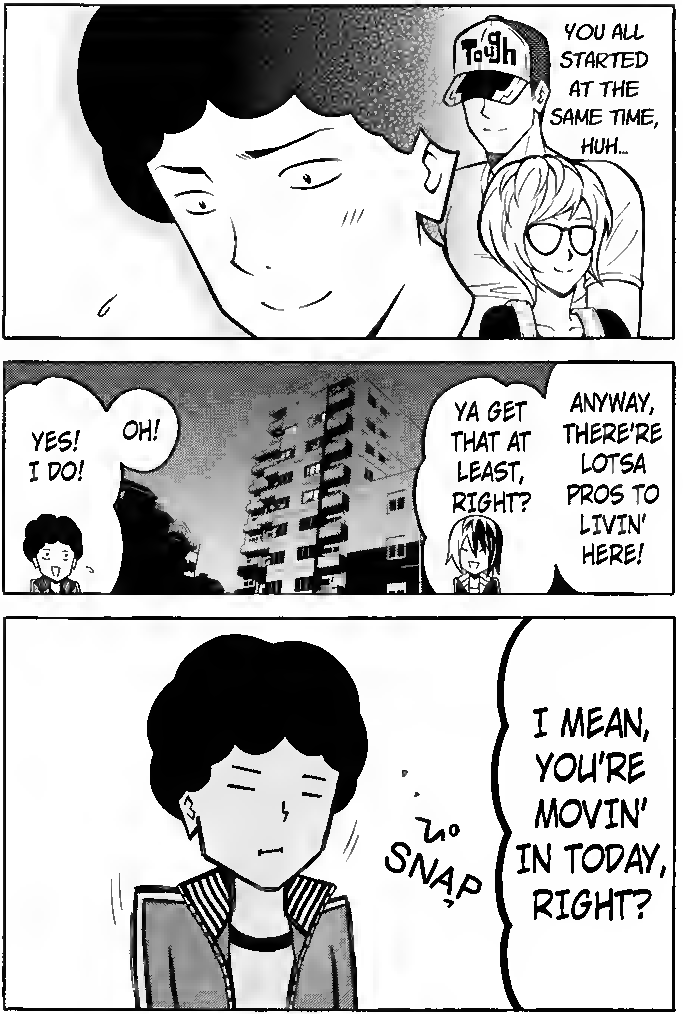
I MEAN, I THOUGHT ONLY NEWBIES WOULD LIVE IN THE COMPANY HOUSING!
YOU GUYS ARE MANAGEMENT! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE YOUR OWN PLACES?
OH!
IS IT THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY MAKE AS MUCH MONEY AS I THOUGHT?
THAT'S KINDA MEAN, KOBAYASHI-KUN.
IT'S A PRETTY UGLY QUESTION.
THE ONLY UGLY THING HERE IS HIS FACE.
JUST DIE.
YOU'RE THE ONES BEING MEAN HERE!
Hmm...
WELL, WE GET PAID BASED ON HOW WELL BUSINESS IS GOING. IT VARIES A LOT FROM MONTH TO MONTH.
ON AVERAGE IT'S ABOUT TEN TIMES WHAT YOUR DAD MAKES.
SQUEAL
YOU'RE KIDDING!
WAIT. DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT MY DAD DOES? OR IS IT JUST A GUESS BASED ON ME?!
HE'S A PAPER-PUSHER, RIGHT? (S)
A PIG WORKER. (Ma)
A PRO GAMBLER? (Me)
A VIR-GIN. (Ju)


CRASH—
IF HE WAS A VIRGIN, HOW THE HELL DID HE CONCEIVE ME, HUH?
AND WHAT THE HELL IS A PIG WORKER?!!


BUT IT'S SO HARD TO LEAVE EVERYONE ELSE BEHIND, YOU KNOW?
AT FIRST, I PLANNED TO LEAVE ONCE I'D EARNED ENOUGH...
WE'VE LIVED HERE SINCE WE STARTED AS HOSTS... A YEAR AND A HALF?
ANYWAY, IT AIN'T REALLY A MONEY THING.


OH!
ACTUALLY, WE ALL BECAME HOSTS AROUND THE SAME TIME.


*fly_drop out & disappear without notice.
JUSSY, COULD YOU EXPLAIN YOUR COMEBACK JUST NOW?
NO NEED TO MAKE FUN OF MY ACCENT.
WE ALL THOUGHT JUSSY WOULD FLY*.
NON-SENSE.
I AIN'T A WRIGHT BROTHER, AM I?
SURE, MAR-CHAN. FROM FLY I WENT TO AIR-PLANE,
AND THE INVENTORS OF THE AIRPLANE WERE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS.
OH! I GET IT NOW! THAT'S GREAT!
YOU SHOULD GET ON A PLANE. AND NEVER COME BACK
WELL, YOU CAN'T TAKE A BOMB ON A PLANE, I GUESS
HUH?
I MAY NOT HAVE ACED THE LANDING, BUT I WOULDN'T SAY IT BOMBED.
DON'T LET IT GET TO HIS HEAD, MAR-CHAN.
JUS-KUN KNOWS THAT JOKE BOMBED.


YOU ALL STARTED AT THE SAME TIME, HUH...
ANYWAY, THERE'RE LOTSA PROS TO LIVIN' HERE!
YA GET THAT AT LEAST, RIGHT?
OH!
YES! I DO!
I MEAN, YOU'RE MOVIN' IN TODAY, RIGHT?
SNAP

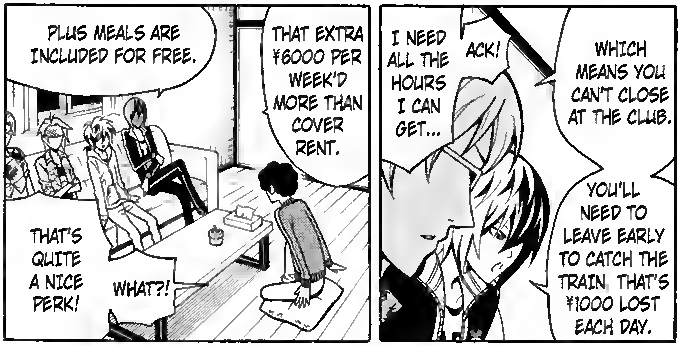
MOVING IN?
UMM... WHAT?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE JUST LETTING ME STAY FOR TONIGHT?
WHAT?
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY...
...YOU'D COME TO THE COMPANY HOUSING?
THE INVI-TATION WAS FOR YOU TO LIVE HERE!
NO WAY!
WHAT?!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 7TH NIGHT: THE CENTER OF HOST LIFE!

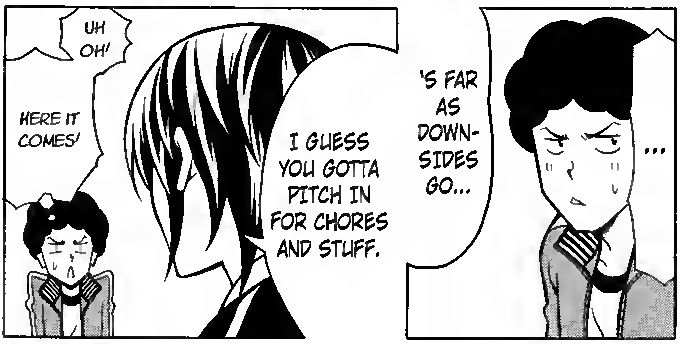
MangaBox
This story is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, places, or events is purely coincidental.

7TH NIGHT: THE CENTER OF HOST LIFE

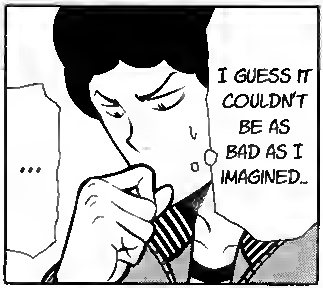
story and art by
Satoshi Kinoshita
Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
VKS Services, LLC / SKY Japan Inc

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMMUTE FROM YOUR PLACE NOW?
UMM... PROBABLY THE BETTER PART OF AN HOUR.
THEN IT'S WAY EASIER TA LIVE HERE!
IT'S A 5 MINUTE WALK TO THE CLUB!


PLUS MEALS ARE INCLUDED FOR FREE.
THAT EXTRA ¥6000 PER WEEK'D MORE THAN COVER RENT.
THAT'S QUITE A NICE PERK!
WHAT?!
I NEED ALL THE HOURS I CAN GET...
ACK!
WHICH MEANS YOU CAN'T CLOSE AT THE CLUB.
YOU'LL NEED TO LEAVE EARLY TO CATCH THE TRAIN. THAT'S ¥1000 LOST EACH DAY.


UH OH!
HERE IT COMES!
I GUESS YOU GOTTA PITCH IN FOR CHORES AND STUFF.
'S FAR AS DOWN-SIDES GO...
...

WE ROTATE WHO DOES WHAT EACH MONTH.
CHORE LIST
AH!
kitchen
Soul
bed & bath
Marco
trash
dishes
Memeta
laundry
Jugstin
WC
God
TAH
DAH!


I GUESS IT COULDN'T BE AS BAD AS I IMAGINED..
...

SO EVERY-BODY PITCHES IN?
IT'S ONLY FAIR!

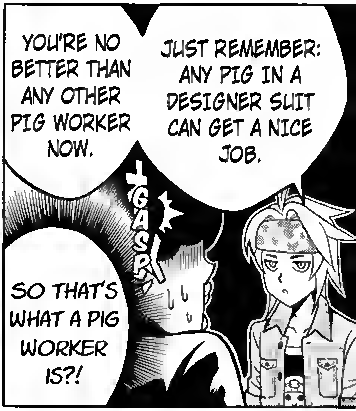
SQUEAK-
UH,
CAN I ASK WHY?
CAN WE BORROW YOU FOR A BIT?
BUT THAT ASIDE,

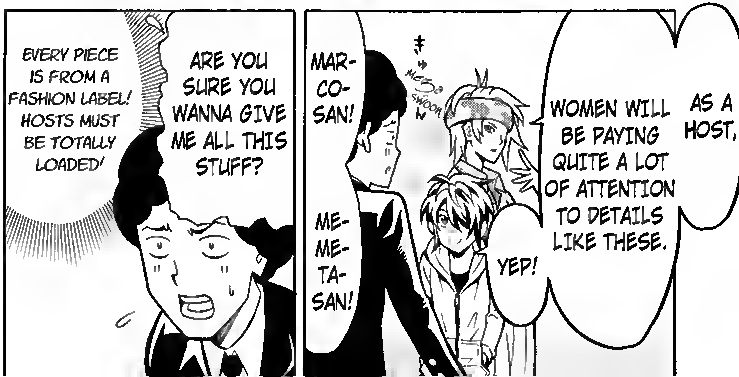
WELL,
IF YOU CHANGE YER MIND, FEEL FREE TO MOVE IN ANY-TIME.
DEALING WITH ROOM-MATES IS TOO MUCH!
WAIT, HOLD ON! I JUST WANT TO UNDERSTAND GIRLS! I DON'T NEED TO MOVE IN HERE!
RRRRRR
AGH!

*whale a customer who spends a lot of money

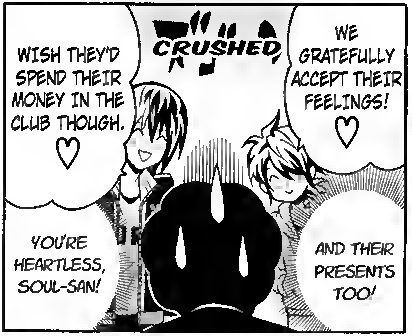
sparkle
THE WATCH AND THE POCKET SQUARE ARE FROM ME.
dazzle
YOU CAN THANK ME FOR THE SHOES!

HOSTIN' AIN'T ONLY ABOUT APPEAR-ANCE,
BUT IT SURE HELPS!
SOUL-SAN!
swoon


JUST REMEMBER: ANY PIG IN A DESIGNER SUIT CAN GET A NICE JOB.
YOU'RE NO BETTER THAN ANY OTHER PIG WORKER NOW.
GASP!
SO THAT'S WHAT A PIG WORKER IS?!


AS A HOST,
WOMEN WILL BE PAYING QUITE A LOT OF ATTENTION TO DETAILS LIKE THESE.
YEP!
MAR-CO-SAN!
ME-ME-TA-SAN!
swoon
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANNA GIVE ME ALL THIS STUFF?
EVERY PIECE IS FROM A FASHION LABEL! HOSTS MUST BE TOTALLY LOADED!

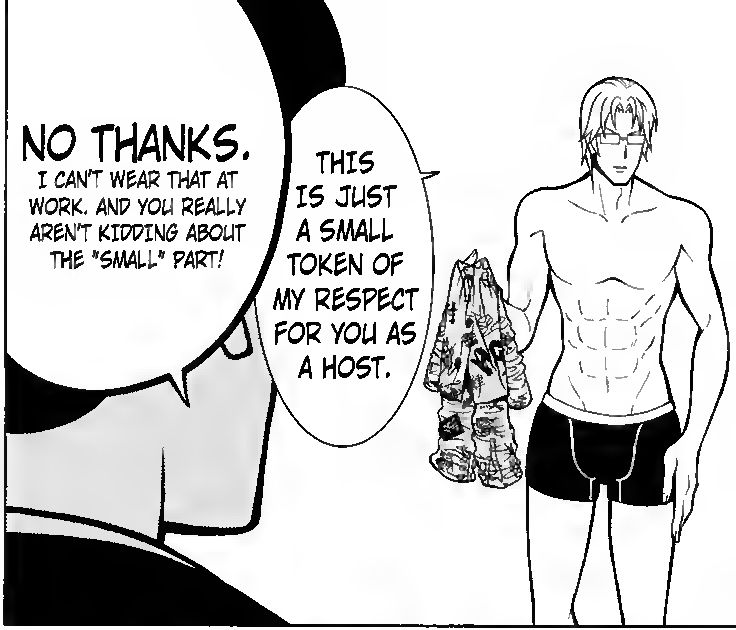
HUH?!
IT'S ALL STUFF WE GOT FROM CUSTOMERS ANYWAY!
JUST TAKE IT!
IT'S A SIGN-ING BONUS.

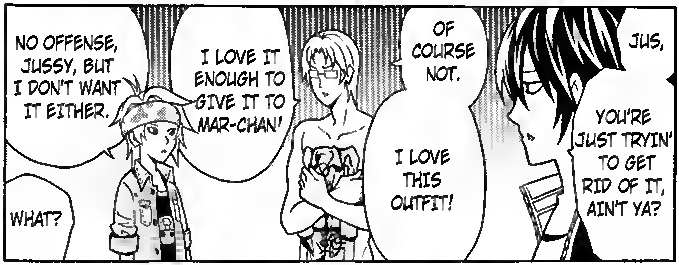

WISH THEY'D SPEND THEIR MONEY IN THE CLUB THOUGH.
CRUSHED
WE GRATEFULLY ACCEPT THEIR FEELINGS!
YOU'RE HEARTLESS, SOUL-SAN!
AND THEIR PRESENTS TOO!

YOU NEED TA GET YER EARS CHECKED.
YOU'RE SAYING CUSTOMERS BUY YOU STUFF LIKE THIS?!

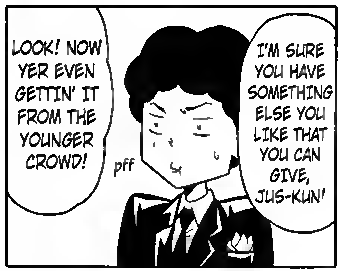
JUSTIN-SAN...!
YOU'RE SPOILING HIM, YOU KNOW.
BUT, I GUESS IT WOULD BE RUDE OF ME TO NOT GIVE SOMETHING AS WELL...

BAM
I'LL WEAR THIS STUFF AND TRY TWICE AS HARD TO-MORROW!
WELL, ALL THAT ASIDE... THANKS A LOT, GUYS!


NO THANKS.
I CAN'T WEAR THAT AT WORK. AND YOU REALLY AREN'T KIDDING ABOUT THE "SMALL" PART!
THIS IS JUST A SMALL TOKEN OF MY RESPECT FOR YOU AS A HOST.


NO OFFENSE, JUSSY, BUT I DON'T WANT IT EITHER.
I LOVE IT ENOUGH TO GIVE IT TO MAR-CHAN!
OF COURSE NOT.
I LOVE THIS OUTFIT!
JUS,
YOU'RE JUST TRYIN' TO GET RID OF IT, AIN'T YA?
WHAT?

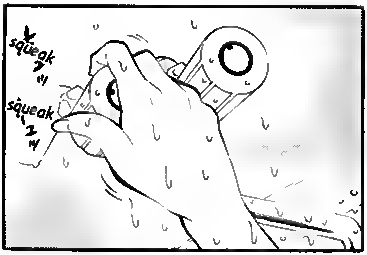
JUST TOSS THE DAMN PJS, JUS!
WELL, THERE'S STUFF YOU LIKE ON THE ONE HAND, AND STUFF *YOU* LIKE ON THE OTHER

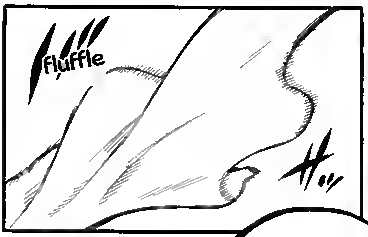

LOOK! NOW YER EVEN GETTIN' IT FROM THE YOUNGER CROWD!
pff
I'M SURE YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE YOU LIKE THAT YOU CAN GIVE, JUS-KUN!

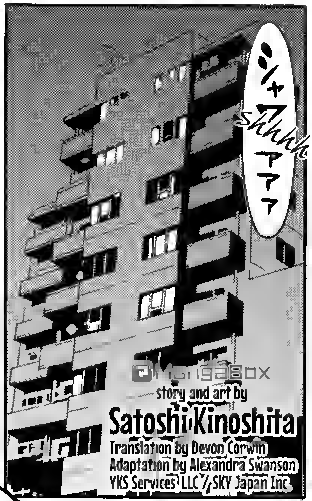
I REALLY GOTTA THANK YOU.
HUH?
OH, MAR-CHAN
YO, KOBA-YASHI-KUN.
sneaky
I COULDN'T BEAR TO PART THEM FROM YOU, JUSSY
NO.
MAR-CHAN, YOU REALLY DON'T WANT THEM?
...
PEOPLE COME AND GO IN THE HOSTIN' BIZ ALL THE TIME.
MAKIN' NEW FRIENDS PUTS EVERYONE IN HIGH SPIRITS.
BUT I DIDN'T ...
THINGS AIN'T BEEN THIS LIVELY IN A LONG WHILE!
AND IT'S ALL 'CAUSE OF YOU!
WELL, SURE!
YOU GOTTA DRAW YER WINNING MANGA, RIGHT?
BUT I MIGHT END UP ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO COMES AND GOES QUICKLY ...
SO EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR A SHORT WHILE, GIVE IT YOUR ALL AND IT'LL BE GREAT!
AH!

IF I'M GOING TO GIVE IT MY ALL,
I'M IN.
OKAY
THAT'S IT! I ALREADY KNEW PART-TIMING IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH, SO I ASKED FOR FULL-TIME.
I'LL JOIN YOU HERE AFTER ALL!
I SHOULD TRY LIVING HERE TOO!
LIVING WITH THESE GUYS WON'T BE SO BAD
WELL, EXCEPT JUSTIN
I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO ADD WALKING THE PIG TO OUR CHORE LIST.
WHOA!
I THINK...
YOU SERI-OUS?
YAY! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED A DICK-HEAD AS A PET!
HE'S GOING TO GET HIS VIRGIN STENCH ALL OVER THE PLACE!

GREAT! ACTUALLY I ALREADY CLEARED A SPACE FOR YA!
OH, REALLY?
RIGHT HERE!
IN THE KITCHEN?!
THIS IS MORE LIKE HAZING, ISN'T IT?!
SHRIEK
SHOTA KOBAYASHI HAS BECOME A RESIDENT!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 8TH NIGHT: A RESTLESS NIGHT!







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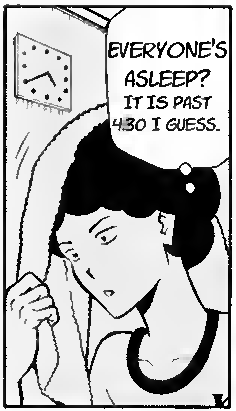
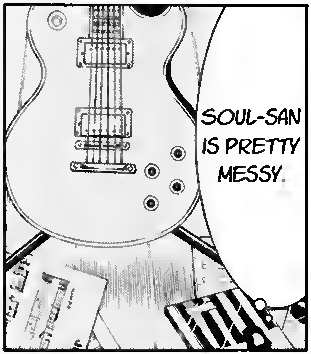
8TH NIGHT: A RESTLESS NIGHT


EVERYONE'S ASLEEP? IT IS PAST 4:30 I GUESS.

HUH?
NNNNN
NNNNN

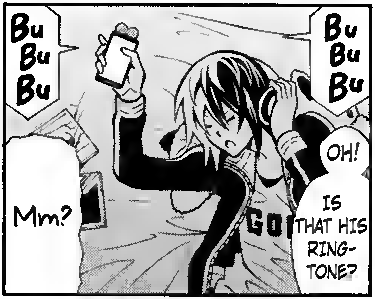

SOUL-SAN IS PRETTY MESSY.

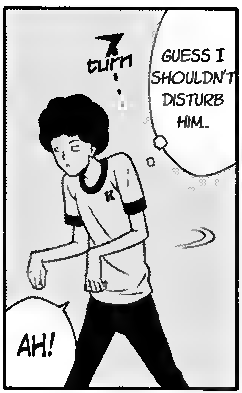
NNNN
I SEE... THEY KEEP ALL THEIR PERSONAL BELONGINGS IN THEIR SLEEPING SPACES.

AH!
I WONDER IF HE'S IN A BAND?
A GUITAR AND A BUNCH OF CDS AND STUFF...

BEEP
WHA-?!
HEY.
OH, RIKA.
WHAT'S UP?

WHOA! HIS CONTACT LIST IS FULL OF GIRLS!
HE'S SLEEPING WITH HIS PHONE IN HIS HAND?
CONTACTS
Rika
Homura
I ♥ IBIZA
Sayuri
Erika
Miki


Bu Bu Bu
Bu Bu Bu
Mm?
OH! IS THAT HIS RING-TONE?


turn
GUESS I SHOULDN'T DISTURB HIM..
AH!

YEAH... UH-HUH...
SO IT'S BECAUSE HE TAKES CALLS FROM HIS CUSTOMERS AROUND THE CLOCK?!
WHOA! HE'S A REAL PRO!

HE'S GOT PILES OF MANGA AND SNACKS...
rustle...

AH, MEMETA-SAN KICKED HIS BLANKETS OFF..
NNNN
FUJIGORI

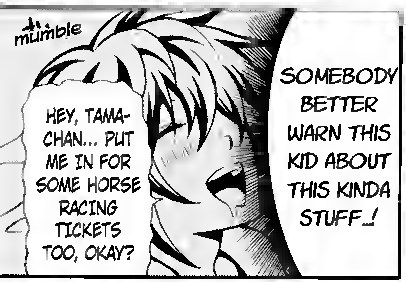
HE'S 19, BUT I GUESS HE'S STILL A KID AT HEART.
hehe
HM?

SHOCK
WHAT?! THERE'S GAMBLING MAGS MIXED IN TOO!
IS HE SECRETLY AN OLD GUY?! IT'S GIVING ME WHIPLASH!

パチンコ必勝ガイド
特集 12P
競馬
天皇賞・春
SPORTS 300円
強

BEER

HUH?
A FRAMED PHOTO?

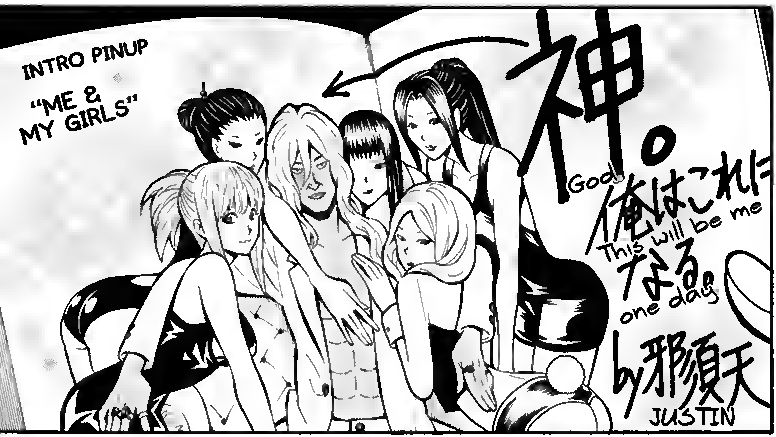

mumble
HEY, TAMA-CHAN... PUT ME IN FOR SOME HORSE RACING TICKETS TOO, OKAY?
SOMEBODY BETTER WARN THIS KID ABOUT THIS KINDA STUFF...!

NNNN
UH?
I GUESS JUSTIN IS SERIOUS ABOUT THOSE PAJAMAS..

SO TRASHY!
THESE MUST BE HIS GAMBLING BUDDIES! I CAN SMELL THEM FROM HERE!
HE DOESN'T FIT IN AT ALL!

SQUAWK
HE'S STILL WEARING HIS GLASSES?!
NNNN
MY GLASSES... I CAN'T SEE WITHOUT MY GLASSES...
YECH!
BUT IN HIS DREAMS HE'S NOT!!
OF ALL OF THEM, I UNDERSTAND THIS GUY THE LEAST..
HE ACTS LIKE AN IDIOT, BUT HE'S GOT ALL THESE INTIMIDATING BOOKS ON HIS SHELF..
ELEMENTARY PARTICLES
SHIGENARI
THE OCEAN OF PHILOSOPHY
UEJIMA TSUTOMU
FUNDAMENTAL THEORY
IZUJI JUNNETH
WORDS OF THE ANCESTORS
SABA YOSHI
FATALISM
TAMAIRA
NO FLIP...
K

I WAS WONDERING WHY HE READ DENSE STUFF LIKE THAT! BUT REALLY HE WAS JUST HIDING HIS MODELING BOOKS?
SCREECH
FLIP
THE COVERS ARE FAKE!
GIRLS are EASY
女なんて簡単だ
伊藤カルロス
ITOH CARLOS
龍平
RYUHEI


INTRO PINUP
"ME & MY GIRLS"
神。
God.
俺はこれになる。
This will be me one day.
邪須天
JUSTIN

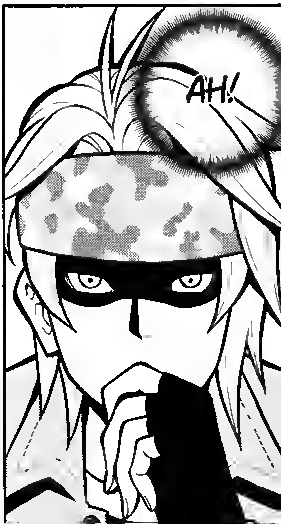
I SHOULD GET TO SLEEP.

SLIP
THUNK

flicker

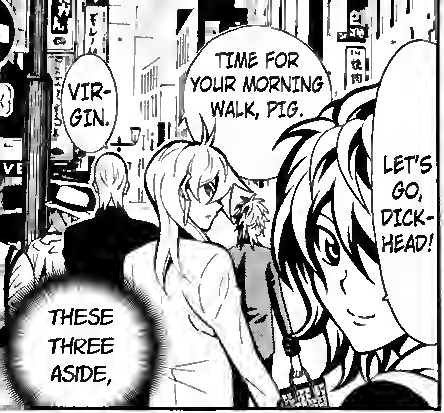
...HUH?

ACK!
WHOA! YOU SCARED ME!
YOU'RE AWAKE TOO, MARCO-SAN?


AH!

SHRIEK
HE'S ASLEEP!
NNNNNNN
WHOA, I'M SUDDENLY REALLY TIRED...
Wobble
I THINK I'LL CRASH ON THE SOFA.
DOES EVERYBODY SLEEP LIKE THAT WHERE HE'S FROM?
HE'S SLEEPING WITH HIS EYES WIDE OPEN!
久保田
JUST WHERE IS HE FROM, ANYWAY?!
AND HE'S SITTING UP, TOO!
FLUMP
IT'S GOTTA BE MORE COMFORTABLE THAN THE KITCHEN FLOOR.
NNNN

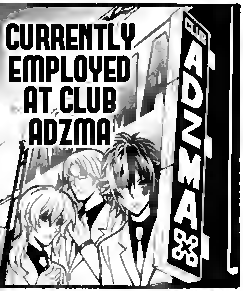
SLAM
THE NEXT MORNING
BAM
LET'S GET TO WORK,
KOBA-YASHI-KUN!


VIR-
GIN.
TIME FOR YOUR MORNING WALK, PIG.
LET'S GO, DICK-HEAD!
THESE THREE ASIDE,

YES, SIR!
Eighteen
I'LL BE FINE.

THIS ISN'T JUST ABOUT TRAINING TO UNDERSTAND WOMEN ANYMORE
I'LL TRUST SOUL-SAN'S ADVICE AND GIVE IT MY ALL

CLUB
ADZMA
KOBAYASHI THE HOST BEGINS HIS VERY LONG DAY!
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF MY LIFE AS A HOST!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 9TH NIGHT: DO NOT DISTURB THE MINISTER OF CLEANING!



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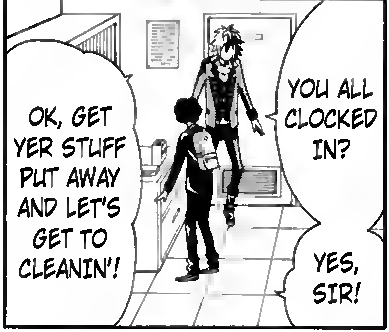
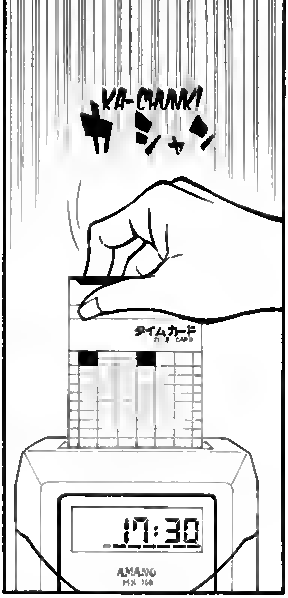
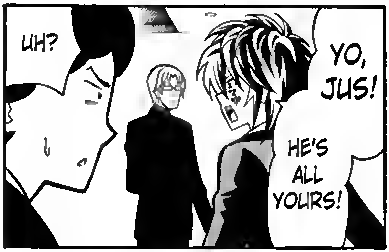
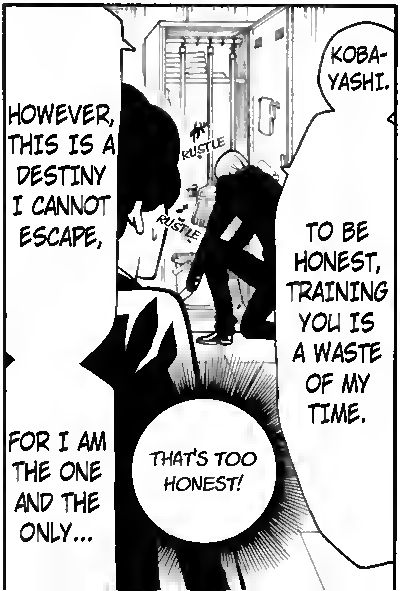
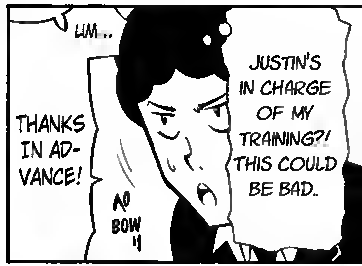

YOU ALL CLOCKED IN?
YES, SIR!
OK, GET YER STUFF PUT AWAY AND LET'S GET TO CLEANIN'!


KA-CHANK!
カシャン
タイムカード
17:30
AMANO

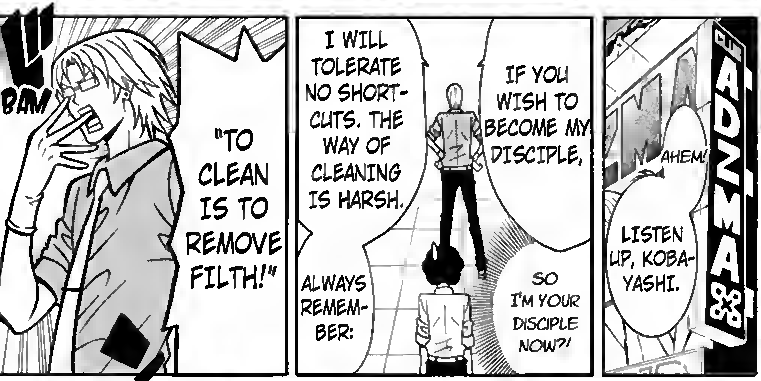

YO, JUS!
HE'S ALL YOURS!
UH?

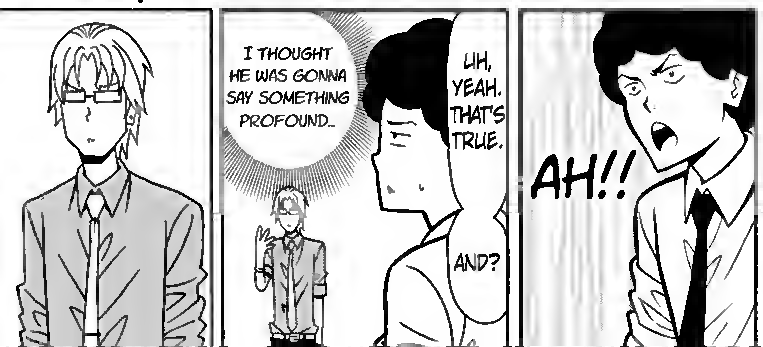

KOBA-YASHI.
TO BE HONEST, TRAINING YOU IS A WASTE OF MY TIME.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
HOWEVER, THIS IS A DESTINY I CANNOT ESCAPE,
FOR I AM THE ONE AND THE ONLY...
THAT'S TOO HONEST!


UM..
JUSTIN'S IN CHARGE OF MY TRAINING?! THIS COULD BE BAD.
THANKS IN AD-VANCE!
NO BOW !

YOU WANT ME?
TO TRAIN HIM?
IN CLEAN-ING?
WITH A REACTION LIKE THAT, THIS CAN'T END WELL!
SIGH.

SHOCK!
YOU REALLY REALLY WANTED TO TRAIN ME, DIDN'T YOU?!
TA-DAH!
...MINISTER OF CLEANING!


BAM
"TO CLEAN IS TO REMOVE FILTH!"
I WILL TOLERATE NO SHORTCUTS. THE WAY OF CLEANING IS HARSH.
ALWAYS REMEMBER:
IF YOU WISH TO BECOME MY DISCIPLE,
SO I'M YOUR DISCIPLE NOW?!
AHEM!
LISTEN UP, KOBAYASHI.


I THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA SAY SOMETHING PROFOUND..
UH, YEAH. THAT'S TRUE.
AND?
AH!!

"TO CLEAN IS TO REMOVE FILTH!!"
DUMBSTRUCK
YOU SAID THAT ALREADY!
WEEEEEE!
MINISTER'S LAW: GUIDE THE NOZZLE, BUT NOT TOO FAST!
IT WAS UNDER-WHELMING ENOUGH THE FIRST TIME!
ADDING A WEIRD POSE TO IT DOESN'T MAKE IT BETTER!
...
EEEEEE
CLICK
"TO CLEAN IS TO REMOVE FILTH..."
AGAIN?!
FLIPPIE
"HOW-EVER!"
"MERE CLEANING CANNOT REMOVE THE FILTH IN YOUR HEART!"
SHRIEK
THERE IT IS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SAID IT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE!
WIPE
WIPE
MINISTER'S LAW: THE UNDERSIDE MUST BE CLEANED AS WELL!

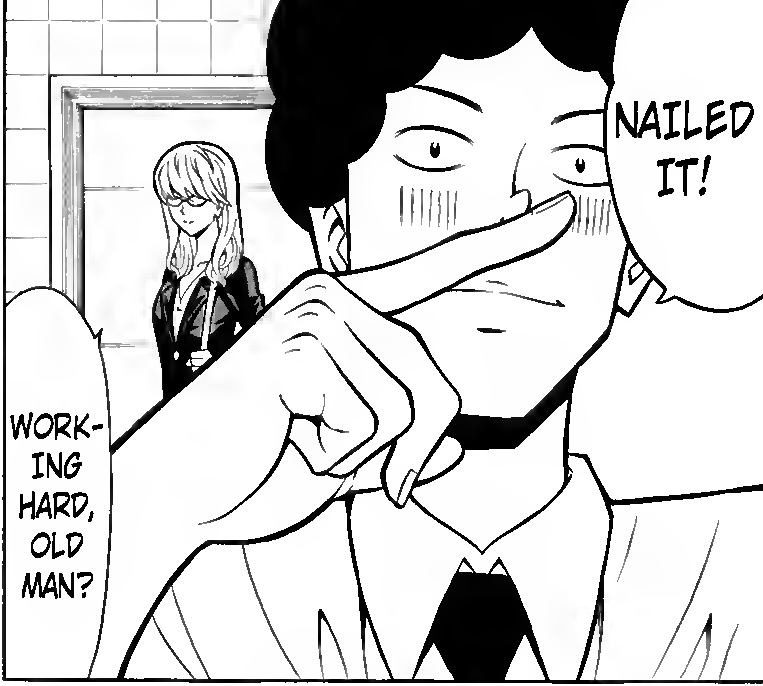
"BECAUSE A FILTHY HEART CANNOT BE WASHED, YOU MUST LEARN TO LOVE IT."
SHHH
WHAT THE HELL?
MINISTER'S LAW: USE HOT WATER FOR FASTER DRYING!
"LOVE IT LIKE A LEFT-HANDED CHILD. LEFT-HANDED PLAYERS ARE VERY GOOD IN BASE-BALL!"
PULL
EXACTLY WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CLEANING?
MINISTER'S LAW: SQUEEZE SPONGES BEFORE DISPOSAL!
"BUT BEING LEFT-HANDED IS SOME-TIMES HARD."
"IT'S HARD TO USE SCISSORS, TO WRITE, TO USE THE SUB-WAY..."
"SHOW THAT CHILD, YOUR FILTHY HEART,
"YOUR LOVE, LIKE THE SUN."
"AND FOR TOILETS, USE TOILET CURE."
TOILET CURE
SPRAY
SPRAY

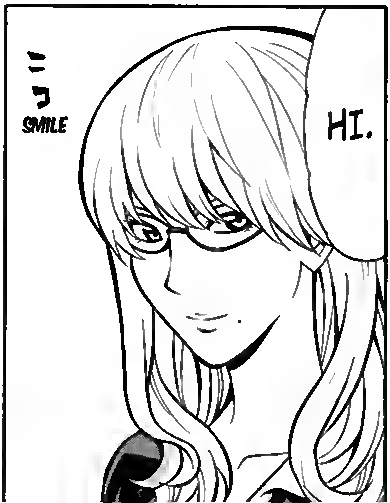
SHRIEK
WHAT THE HELL WAS UP WITH THAT STORY?!
AND IT ENDED SO SUDDENLY TOO?
THIS IS WHERE YOU'LL PUT IN THE MOST EFFORT, UNDERLING.
wipe
wipe
HE REALLY WASN'T KIDDING ABOUT NOT SKIMPING ON THE DETAILS.
WELL, MINISTER OF CLEANING,
wipe
wipe
EVERY CUSTOMER SEES THIS, SO POLISH IT WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT.
ACHOO!!
I SEE YOU HAVE A GOOD SIDE AFTER ALL...
AH...
AH...

...!!
ADJUST
UH?!
slip
SPLISH

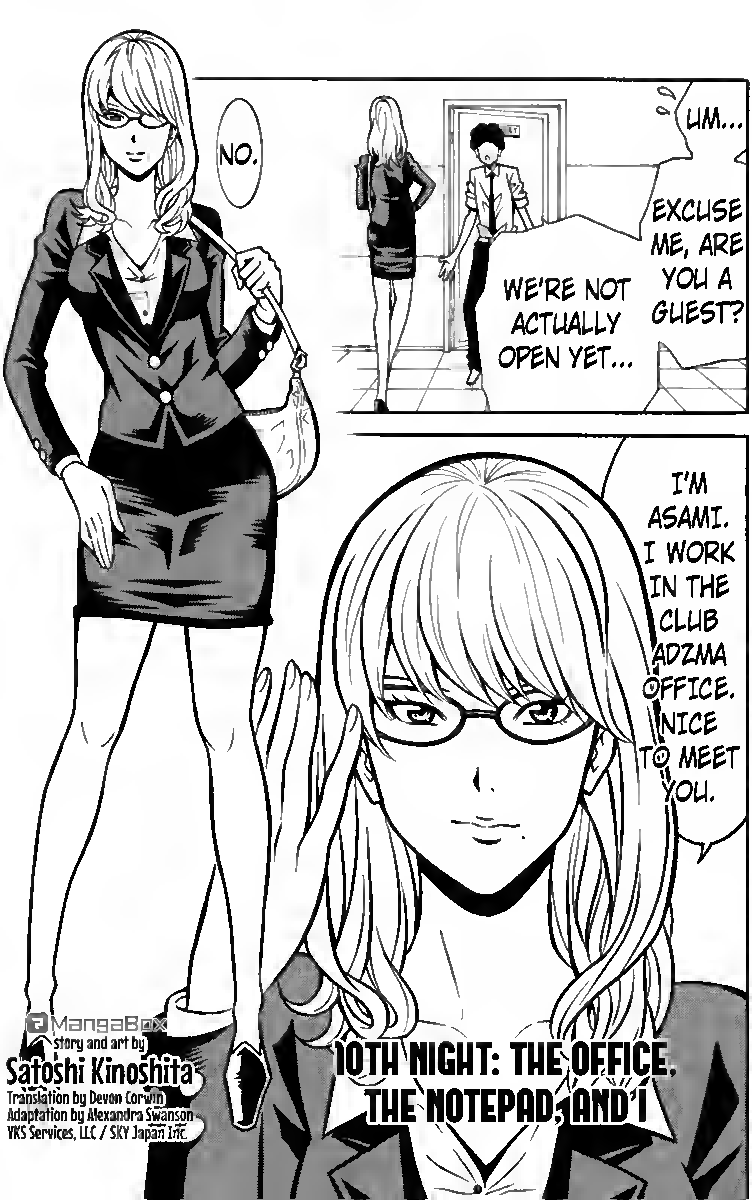
OK. YOU TRY.
OHOOOOOOOOO!!
WHAT WAS ALL THAT CLEANING ADVICE FOR, THEN? OR DO YOU CARE MORE ABOUT THE TOILET THAN YOUR OWN GLASSES?!
I DON'T GET YOU AT ALL! YOU'RE SO SCARY!
AND LASTLY,
IF YOU'RE GOING TO CLEAN ANY-THING, CLEAN THAT!!
CLEANING ISN'T ABOUT TECHNIQUE. IT'S ABOUT CARING.
TURN
KEEP THAT IN MIND
WHOA!
UH-OH!
THAT WAS CLOSE! BETTER NOT DROP YOUR GLASSES AGAIN!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I HAVEN'T CLEANED A TOILET SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
SPRAY
SPRAY
TOILET
WHEW!
NOT TECH-NIQUE,
KNEEL
BUT CARING, HUH...
SCRUB
SCRUB





TO BE CONTINUED IN 10TH NIGHT: THE OFFICE, THE NOTEPAD, AND I


UM...
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU A GUEST?
WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY OPEN YET...
NO.
I'M ASAMI. I WORK IN THE CLUB ADZMA OFFICE. NICE TO MEET YOU.
10TH NIGHT: THE OFFICE, THE NOTEPAD, AND I
Story and art by
Satoshi Kinoshita
Translation by Devon Corwin
Adaptation by Alexandra Swanson
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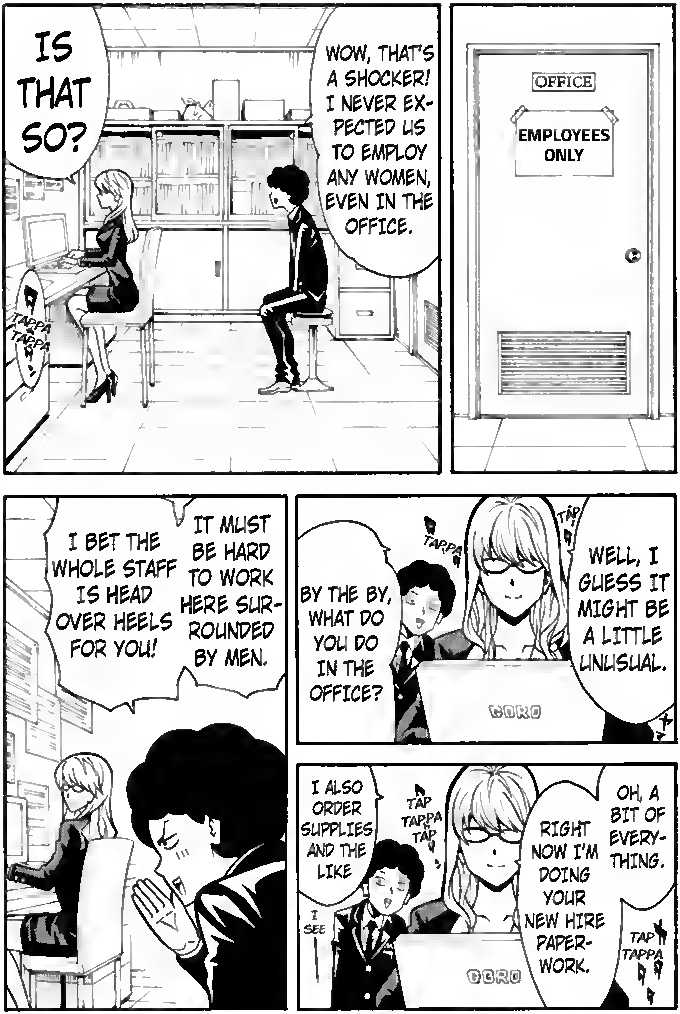
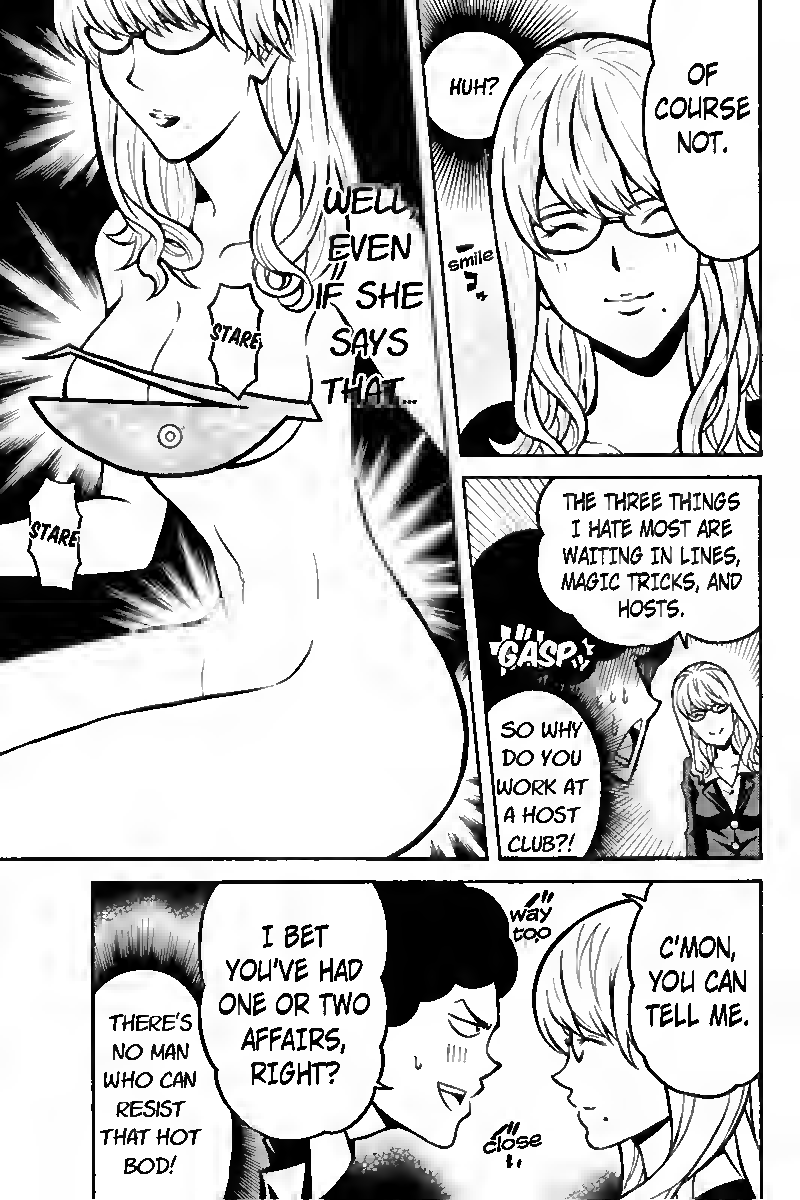
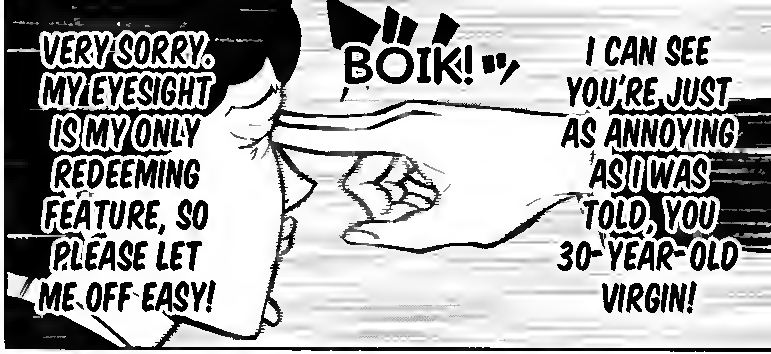
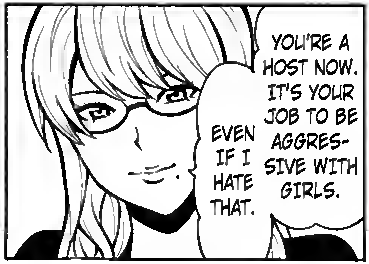

IS THAT SO?
WOW, THAT'S A SHOCKER! I NEVER EXPECTED US TO EMPLOY ANY WOMEN, EVEN IN THE OFFICE.
TAPPA TAPPA
OFFICE
EMPLOYEES ONLY
I BET THE WHOLE STAFF IS HEAD OVER HEELS FOR YOU!
IT MUST BE HARD TO WORK HERE SURROUNDED BY MEN.
BY THE BY, WHAT DO YOU DO IN THE OFFICE?
TAPPA
TAP
WELL, I GUESS IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE UNUSUAL.
GORO
I ALSO ORDER SUPPLIES AND THE LIKE
I SEE
TAP TAPPA TAP
RIGHT NOW I'M DOING YOUR NEW HIRE PAPERWORK.
OH, A BIT OF EVERYTHING.
TAP TAPPA
GORO


OF COURSE NOT.
HUH?
smile
WELL, EVEN IF SHE SAYS THAT...
STARE
STARE
THE THREE THINGS I HATE MOST ARE WAITING IN LINES, MAGIC TRICKS, AND HOSTS.
GASP
SO WHY DO YOU WORK AT A HOST CLUB?!
C'MON, YOU CAN TELL ME.
way too
I BET YOU'VE HAD ONE OR TWO AFFAIRS, RIGHT?
close
THERE'S NO MAN WHO CAN RESIST THAT HOT BOD!

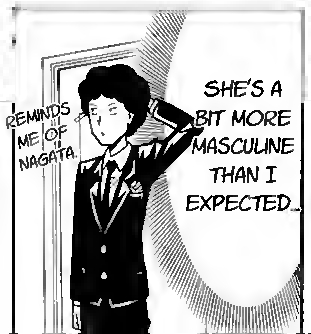

VERY SORRY. MY EYESIGHT IS MY ONLY REDEEMING FEATURE, SO PLEASE LET ME OFF EASY!
BOIK!
I CAN SEE YOU'RE JUST AS ANNOYING AS I WAS TOLD, YOU 30-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN!


YOU'RE A HOST NOW. IT'S YOUR JOB TO BE AGGRESSIVE WITH GIRLS.
EVEN IF I HATE THAT.

UM,
OKAY.

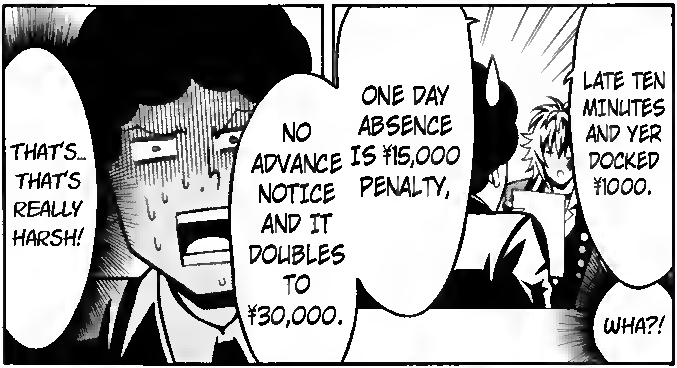
YOU'RE ALLOWED TO BE ANNOYING.
JOKING?!
I'M JUST JOKING.
YOU ALREADY POKED ME!

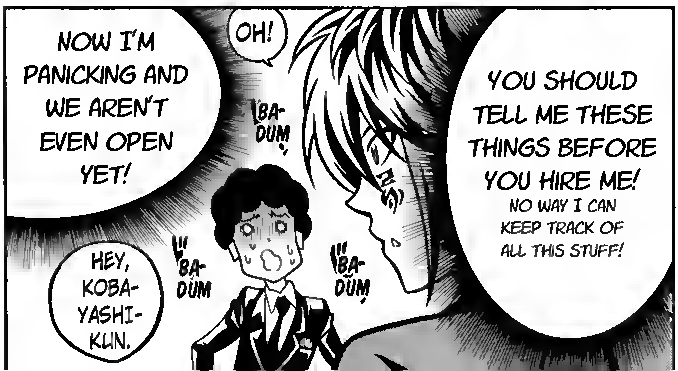
ADAM


REMINDS ME OF NAGATA
SHE'S A BIT MORE MASCULINE THAN I EXPECTED.

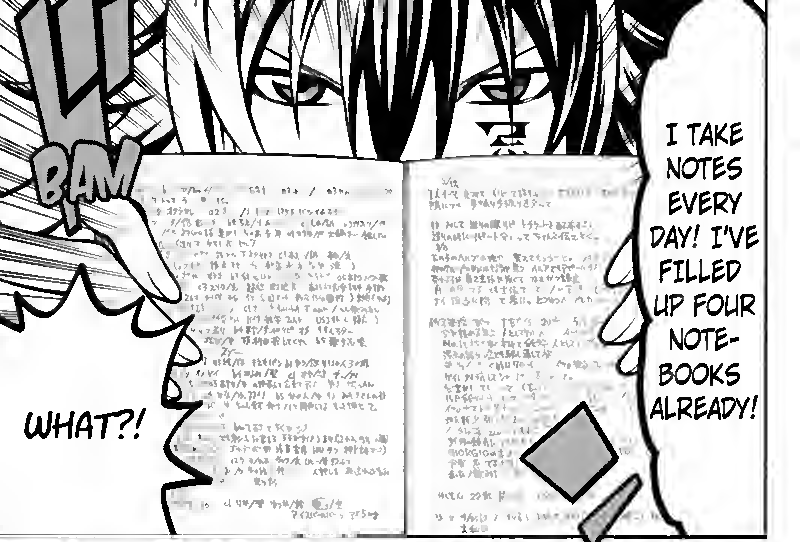
ALL RIGHT! YOUR FILE'S ALL IN ORDER.
SOUL WILL HANDLE THE REST.
TH-
THANK YOU!
SLAM

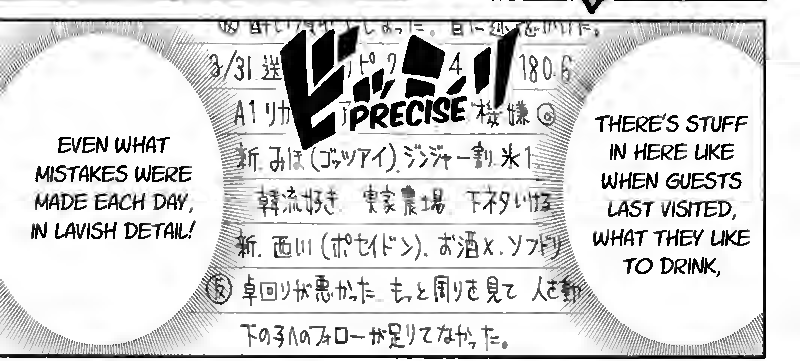
IF 60% OF YER TAKE EXCEEDS THAT, YA GET BONUS PAY.
Y-
YES SIR!
LESSE ...
LIKE WE SAID YESTERDAY, YER PAY IS ¥6000 PER DAY.


THAT'S... THAT'S REALLY HARSH!
NO ADVANCE NOTICE AND IT DOUBLES TO ¥30,000.
ONE DAY ABSENCE IS ¥15,000 PENALTY,
LATE TEN MINUTES AND YER DOCKED ¥1000.
WHA?!


NOW I'M PANICKING AND WE AREN'T EVEN OPEN YET!
OH!
BA-DUM
HEY, KOBAYASHI-KUN.
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
YOU SHOULD TELL ME THESE THINGS BEFORE YOU HIRE ME!
NO WAY I CAN KEEP TRACK OF ALL THIS STUFF!

A POCKET NOTE-BOOK?
HERE, TAKE THIS!
ESPECIALLY STUFF YER BOSS SAYS!
EVERY-THIN'!
THERE'S A LOT OF TRICKS TO MAKIN' IT AS A HOST, SO YA GOTTA WRITE 'EM DOWN!
I'M TALKIN' THAT LEGAL JUNK I JUST SAID, STUFF YER CUSTOMERS SAY, EVERY-THIN'!
HOSTS... TAKE NOTES?
YA GOTTA GET IN THE HABIT OF NOTIN' DOWN EVERYTHIN'!
ALL HOSTS DO IT!
EVERY-THING?
HEY! DON'T BE RUDE!
YOU DON'T STRIKE ME AS THE TYPE TO TAKE NOTES, SOUL-SAN.
YOU SAID ALL HOSTS DO IT?


I TAKE NOTES EVERY DAY! I'VE FILLED UP FOUR NOTE-BOOKS ALREADY!
BAM
WHAT?!


EVEN WHAT MISTAKES WERE MADE EACH DAY, IN LAVISH DETAIL!
ビッシリ!
PRECISE!
THERE'S STUFF IN HERE LIKE WHEN GUESTS LAST VISITED, WHAT THEY LIKE TO DRINK,

YA GOTTA DO IT IF YA WANNA BE POP-ULAR.
BUT ...
YO, KOBAYASHI-KUN, NEED SOME FRESH AIR?
I'M OKAY, SORRY.
AH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! SOUL-SAN? AND SO METI-CULOUSLY?!
THIS IS THE FIFTH ONE?!

COMPE-
TITION
AT THE
TOP IS
FIERCE.
EVEN
THIS
AIN'T
ENOUGH
TA BE
#1.
sigh
THIS REALLY
IS A JOB
YOU CAN'T DO
HALFWAY!
shiver
THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH
FOR
THIS!

EVEN IF YOU'RE OLDER, I'MA LOOK AFTER YOU AS YOUR BOSS HERE.
REMEMBER, YOU'RE OFFICIALLY A HOST NOW.
OK.
オ YEAH! ス!
YES, SIR!
AH!
YA GOT THAT, KOBA-YASHI ?!
CLINK
DONE WITH YOUR MEETING?

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT BEFORE WE OPEN.
HUH?
WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE YOU A CRASH COURSE IN ETI-QUETTE.

BA-DUM!
I FORGOT ABOUT THAT!
DRINKS!
TO BE CONTINUED IN 11TH NIGHT: MARCO'S ETIQUETTE BOOT CAMP!

YOU'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO TALK IF YOU CAN'T SERVE DRINKS!